

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Meeting of Council Held at the Walker Theatre, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury at 6.00pm on Monday 12 May 2025

PRESENT

Councillors D Vasmer (Mayor), B Bentick, J Daniels, R Dartnall, J Dean, A Fejfer, R Gratton, B Jephcott, E Micklewright, V Moore, A Mosley, J Tandy, A Wagner and R Wilson.

All members were in attendance having signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk) & Officers of the Town Council; members of the public.

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

That apologies be accepted from Councillors Halliday, Hancock-Davies and Pardy.

1/25 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2025/26

It was proposed by Councillor Tandy, seconded by Councillor Fejfer and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Alex Wagner be elected the Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2026.

The Mayoral Party retired from the meeting for robing. The Mayoral Party returned suitably robed.

The Retiring Mayor ordained the Mayor with the Chains of Office. The Mayor read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2/25 MAYOR'S SPEECH

The Mayor spoke of the great honour & privilege to be elected Mayor of Shrewsbury. He thanked Councillor Vasmer for his time as Mayor of Shrewsbury.

Throughout his mayoral year his theme would be Town Safety, with plans to fundraise for two charities; West Mercia Search and Rescue and Shrewsbury Street Pastors, in order to enhance the experience that people have in the Town Centre and to help them in their incredible work creating a safer town, particularly at night, for all who live, work and visit Shrewsbury.

The Mayor added that it was a great honour to serve Shrewsbury, and he was looking forward to getting started in the role.

3/25 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Tandy, seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council hereby expresses its sincere thanks to Councillor David Vasmer for the efficient, enthusiastic and impartial manner in which he discharged his duties as Mayor of Shrewsbury.

The Mayor presented Councillor Vasmer with his Past Mayor's Badge and retiring gift.

4/25 RESPONSE OF RETIRING MAYOR

The Outgoing Mayor thanked his fellow Councillors for giving him the opportunity to be Mayor and to everybody in the Town who had been so supportive. He had a hugely enjoyable year meeting so many people who made valuable contributions to the communities, often as volunteers and that was one of the reasons that made Shrewsbury such a special place to live.

He thanked the charities he had chosen to support during his mayoral year which were Shropshire Mental Health Support and Omega. He had hoped it had given them some extra publicity along with the funds he had raised which currently stood at £3300.

He personally thanked the Mayor's Secretary for being super-efficient; in particular her organisation of the big civic events during his year had been nothing short of extraordinary. He went on to thank the Mayor's Driver who did much more than drive him to events, he assisted in the organisation of events alongside the Mayors Secretary.

He also thanked the Town Council staff for being very supportive despite the many other challenges they faced. Thanks went to his Consort Rhys and his family for his often-long absences from home.

He gave thanks to Councillor Wagner for his support as Deputy Mayor, attending events on his behalf, often at short notice.

The Outgoing Mayor closed by stating he had thoroughly enjoyed being the town's first citizen and he hoped he had lived up to the great tradition of being Shrewsbury's Mayor.

5/25 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Jephcott and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Bernie Bentick be elected the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2026.

6/25 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING COUNCILLORS

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor and Councillors of Shrewsbury Town Council hereby express their sincere thanks to the following Councillors who have not only provided service as a Town Councillor or Shropshire Councillor and some since 2009 but also in some cases as long and distinguished service as a Councillor with the former Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council. Such service having been given with commitment, compassion and a desire to enhance the wellbeing of the town and its community. These being:

- **Nat Green**
- **Mary Davies**
- **Chris Lemon**
- **Alex Phillips**
- **Pam Moseley**
- **Becky Wall**
- **Phil Gillam**
- **Elisabeth Addams**

7/25 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – 17 MARCH 2025

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 March 2025 were submitted as circulated and read.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 March 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

8/25 COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

9/25 DATES AND TIMES OF ORDINARY MEETINGS

That the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council, its Committees and Working Groups as presented be confirmed.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of meetings as circulated be approved.

10/25 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

That the Council retains the following Committees/Working Groups and that the terms of reference of those Committees as presented be adopted;

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the Council establishes the Committee Structure with associated Terms of Reference as tabled below:

- (i) Policy & Resources Committee**
 - a) Complaints, Freedom of Information & Data Protection Committee
 - b) Service Development Sub Committee
- (ii) Operations Committee;**
- (iii) Communities & Environment Committee;**
 - a) Grants Sub Committee
- (iv) Planning Committee;**
- (v) Personnel Committee;**
- (vi) Grievance Committee;**
- (vii) Staffing Appeals Committee:**
- (viii) Council and Employee Joint Consultative Committee**
- (ix) Youth Council**

11/25 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the members of Committees be appointed in accordance with the nominations submitted by the respective groups, which had been determined having regards to the rules of political balance:

- (i) Policy & Resources Committee (8 members)**
 - Councillor Alan Mosley
 - Councillor Rosemary Dartnall
 - Councillor Rob Wilson
 - Councillor Alex Wagner
 - Councillor David Vasmer
 - Councillor Bernie Bentick
 - Councillor Adam Fejfer
 - Councillor Julian Dean

a. Service Delivery Sub-Committee (6 members)

Councillor Hancock-Davies
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Rob Wilson
Councillor David Vasmer
Councillor Adam Fejfer
Councillor Julian Dean

(ii) Operations Committee (8 members)

Councillor Harry Hancock-Davies
Councillor Kate Halliday
Councillor David Vasmer
Councillor Rob Wilson
Councillor Alex Wagner
Councillor Jon Tandy
Councillor Vicky Moore
Councillor Julian Dean

(iii) Planning Committee (8 members)

Councillor Harry Hancock-Davies
Councillor Kevin Pardy
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor David Vasmer
Councillor Ben Jephcott
Councillor Jamie Daniels
Councillor Jon Tandy
Councillor Julian Dean

(iv) Communities & Environment Committee (8 members)

Councillor Rosemary Dartnall
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Bernie Bentick
Councillor Rob Wilson
Councillor Adam Fejfer
Councillor Rhys Gratton
Councillor Jamie Daniels
Councillor Emma Micklewright

a. Grants Sub-Committee (3 members)

Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Bernie Bentick
Councillor Emma Micklewright

(v) Personnel Committee (5 members)

Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Rob Wilson
Councillor David Vasmer
Councillor Ben Jephcott
Councillor Emma Micklewright

- (vi) Grievance Committee (5 members)**
Councillor Hancock-Davies
Councillor Alex Wagner
Councillor Vicky Moore
Councillor Jamie Daniels
Councillor Julian Dean
- (vii) Appeals Committee (3 members)**
Councillor Rosemary Dartnall
Councillor Jon Tandy
Councillor Rhys Gratton
- (viii) External Complaints/FOI/Appeals Committee (3 members)**
Councillor Kate Halliday
Councillor Jamie Daniels
Councillor Emma Micklewright
- (ix) Joint Consultative Committee (6 members)**
Councillor Hancock-Davies
Councillor Alan Mosley
Councillor Rob Wilson
Councillor Alex Wagner
Councillor Adam Fejfer
Councillor Julian Dean

12/25 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the Council continues to be members of the following organisations:

- (i) National Association of British Market Authorities;**
- (ii) Shropshire Association of Local Councils;**
- (iii) National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardens;**
- (iv) Association of Historic Towns;**
- (v) Association of Town & City Management**
- (vi) Co-Operative Councils Innovation Network**

13/25 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The schedule of Outside Bodies Representatives was presented. It was proposed by the Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the members/representatives be appointed to serve on the various outside bodies in accordance with the nominations by the respective groups.

14/25 BANK ACCOUNT & AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES

It was proposed by the Councillor Wilson, seconded by the Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That the Councillors holding the following Offices be signatories on the Council's Bank Accounts for which two Councillors must sign any order for payment:

- (1) Mayor – Cllr Alex Wagner**
- (2) Deputy Mayor - Cllr Bernie Bentick**
- (3) Green Representative – Cllr Julian Dean**
- (4) Labour Representative – Cllr Alan Mosley**
- (5) Liberal Democrat Representative – Cllr Rob Wilson**
- (6) Reform UK Representative – Cllr Harry Hancock-Davies**

15/25 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the following documents be adopted**
 - a. Standing Orders (copies previously circulated to all members);**
 - b. Financial Regulations (copies previously circulated to all members);**
 - c. Code of Conduct**
- (ii) That Councillor Vasmer be appointed the Councillor Appointment to oversee a quarterly review of the financial records in conjunction with the RFO & Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations**

16/25 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETANCE

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer

RESOLVED:

That acknowledging the elections for Shrewsbury Town Council and having cognisance of the criteria as defined in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, Shrewsbury Town Council confirms its continued eligibility to use the General Power of Competence as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

17/25 DISPENSATIONS

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk be delegated authority to grant dispensations in accordance with Procedures as submitted.

18/25 DELEGATED AUTHORITY

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Vasmer

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk and Senior Officers be delegated authority to carry out duties and functions of the Council as set out in the Scheme of Delegation.