

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee
Held in Committee Room, Livesey House
At 6.00pm on Wednesday 23rd July 2025**

PRESENT

Councillors: B Bentick (Chair), E Micklewright and A Mosley

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Watkin (Head of Resources)

01/25 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

It was noted that, following the Annual Meeting of the Council, Councillor Bentick was appointed Chairman of the Grants Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Councillor Bentick as Chairman of the Grants Sub-Committee be noted.

02/25 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Councillor Bentick asked members if there were any comments.

Councillor Mosley asked if paragraph 2 could be changed “and make recommendations” replacing “present a report” which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference for the Policy & Resources Committee be updated and noted.

03/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

04/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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05/25 GRANTS

05.1 Update on Community Grants and Councillor Grants Funds

The RFO circulated the schedule of Community Grants and Local Councillor Grants awarded to date. Community Grant Applications this round totalled £37,512.60, there were 2 further rounds and a third of available funds was just under £13,000.

The RFO brought councillors' attention to their individual Local Councillor Grant Funds – there had been minimal spending due to elections and also there were many new councillors. All Councillors were aware of the scheme and the chair asked the RFO to remind councillors that they need to spend the funds, it can only roll over 1 year maximum before flowing into the community balance.

05.2 Applications for Community Grants Funds

Representatives from organisations that had applied for funding were present at the meeting and were welcomed by the Chair; there were 12 attendees in total. Each were asked in turn to give a brief overview of their application and answer any questions from members. After the presentations, the organisation representatives still present were thanked and asked to leave the meeting for the councillors to discuss the applications and agree on recommendations for the Communities & Environment Committee. The summary below reflected the thrust of both the presentations and the discussions

- (a) **Crane Quality Counselling** – requested £10,000 to fund counselling for young people throughout the Shrewsbury Area, to support those struggling with bereavement and low-level mental health. Funding from Shropshire Council and other sources were diminishing while waiting times increasing. The funds would be used as a bursary. A previous award allowed 23 children to receive 82 appointments.

RECOMMENDED:

That £2,500 be awarded to Crane Quality Counselling.

- (b) **Feed the Birds** – requested £1,900 to fund a nature based befriending service that would recruit and train new volunteers to provide bird feeders, including food, to lonely and isolated adults in Shrewsbury. This organisation was a standalone charity and now independent from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, and the funds would allow 10 new clients.

RECOMMENDED:

That £900 be awarded to Feed the Birds to cover equipment costs, and if cheaper boxes were secured would help meet other costs.

- (c) **The Group the Musical** – requested £1,231.60 to fund a community disability production that would engage and teach disabled people from the community of Shrewsbury and raise awareness of Autism through performing arts. The

group was in its infancy and funds would allow regular secure space in Sundorne to rehearse.

RECOMMENDED:

That £1,231.60 be awarded to The Group the Musical to enable this performance and make them sustainable in the long run. It was hoped that a larger audience than predicted would see the performance.

- (d) The Hive (HMM Arts Ltd)** – requested £3,000 to fund Amplify Wellbeing Project which was to provide additional sessions for young people aged 13-25 to nurture talent and provide opportunities within the music industry. No representatives were available.

RECOMMENDED:

That £1,500 be awarded to The Hive (HMM Arts Ltd) to match Arts Council funding.

- (e) Lingen Davies Cancer Support** – requested £3,105 to fund wellbeing Yoga for those living with and undergoing treatment for cancer to improve wellbeing and recovery over 3 different days for 12 weeks in sessions tailored to their needs by a local provider. This fell outside the scope of NHS funding and Councillor Mosley raised the question of Social Prescribing as a source of funding.

RECOMMENDED:

That £1,000 be awarded to Lingen Davies Cancer Support for 1 of the 3 weekly sessions.

- (f) Mummas Emporium** – requested £1,600 to provide a printing machine and accessories for products which could be sold and worn as part of a programme of community care services along with funding for games and outings. They operated from a space above an opticians on Pride Hill and wanted to raise awareness and improve sustainability. A question was asked regarding the use of yearly tickets and it was confirmed that they would be in the name of the organisation and carers pass so could be used by all.

RECOMMENDED:

That £500 be awarded to Mummas Emporium for the printing machine and some accessories.

- (g) Shrewsbury & Oswestry Crucial Crew** – requested £2,000 toward the 2026 event. The 2025 event was a great success with many schools from Shrewsbury attending the Flaxmill to prepare children for their move to secondary school. Part funding was secured from the Police & Crime Commissioner for the next few years on the basis that other funds were secured.

RECOMMENDED:

That £2,000 be awarded to Shrewsbury & Oswestry Crucial Crew.

- (h) **The Shrewsbury Ark** – requested £2,500 towards updating the website and creating marketing materials to build more support from businesses and individuals to improve sustainability for the community work they provide. All funds received were covering overheads, the website and materials which would improve awareness raising and help make the Ark sustainable for the future. Runners currently raising funds on their behalf wear cheap inappropriate cotton t-shirts for events. A question was asked about the accounts and surplus, however this was not the current position, with the accounts yet to be finalised and published.

RECOMMENDED:

That £1,000 be awarded to The Shrewsbury Ark towards the website and some marketing materials.

- (i) **Shrewsbury Arts Trail**– requested £3,000 towards a winter event featuring light installations across Shrewsbury, illuminating buildings around the Christmas period, including the Dingle. It was stated that the Town Council already contributed to the Christmas lights and events. The RFO asked about the proposed use of the Dingle - contact had been made with the Town Clerk but Jess was not present to elaborate.

RECOMMENDED:

That no grant be awarded to Shrewsbury Arts Trail.

- (j) **Shrewsbury Food Hub** – requested £3,000 towards supporting vulnerable people in Shrewsbury through the redistribution of surplus fresh fruit and vegetables to benefit those in need and reduce CO₂ as food not thrown away. It was clarified they were not a food bank but a hub which redistributed surplus food to charities and groups and provided projects to improve cooking skills and community food shares for a modest £2 donation per bag. The funds would allow purchase of food to supplement and fill in gaps of food donated.

RECOMMENDED:

That £3,000 be awarded to Shrewsbury Food Hub.

- (k) **Shrewsbury Street Pastors** – requested £2,000 towards social media and volunteer training for community work undertaken. They received free support to improve social media but required funds for associated costs. Currently, they only worked on Saturdays but wished to extend this to Fridays especially in the Triangle in Shrewsbury previously known as the west end.

RECOMMENDED:

That £650 be awarded to Shrewsbury Street Pastors for volunteer training.

- (l) **Shropshire Youth Association (SYA)** – requested £1,500 towards a fun day for families experiencing poverty to attend and build positive relationships in the community. Ideas were sourced from young people and the event would be open to all from Shrewsbury with the climbing wall as the main focus as well as a

pizza oven which would have future use. In the event it might rain in October, the climbing wall would be delayed. Councillor Mosley mentioned the popular Castlefield's open day where all the community came together to put on event annually at The Pleasure.

RECOMMENDED:

That £350 be awarded to Shropshire Youth Association for the purchase of a pizza oven.

(m) We Are Listening – requested £2,676 towards 12 breakfast in the community events with local musician and volunteers. The purpose was to reduce loneliness and offer a befriending service as an extension of the work they are focused on already. The MP had attended the first event and the grant would provide future ones. The reach outside of Frankwell and targeting was questioned, and it would be made available to all in Shrewsbury and to those in need. The Accounting surplus was from a grant received which was now being spent at the rate of £3k a month.

RECOMMENDED:

That no grant be awarded to We Are Listening, but that the local member be approached to consider funding from their Local Councillor Grant Fund.