

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of Council
Held at Livesey House, 7 St Johns Hill, Shrewsbury at
6pm on Monday 29 June 2026

PRESENT

Councillors B Bentick (Mayor), K Pardy (Deputy Mayor), J Daniels, R Dartnall, A Fejfer, R Gratton, K Halliday, B Jephcott, A Mosley, J Tandy, A Wagner and R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources) & Louise Smith (HR Officer).

16/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors J Dean, H Hancock-Davies, E Micklewright & D Vasmer.

Apologies also received from Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer)

17/26 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 Wagner	Was the Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holder. Now that negotiations were complete regarding delegation arrangements, he had a dispensation to discuss operational matters.
Councillor Wilson	Was Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth. He had a dispensation to discuss matters in relation to the devolution arrangements between Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council.
Councillor Tandy	Declared a Prejudicial interest in the Shrewsbury Sunday Market.

18/26 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16 March & 11 May 2026 be submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Full Meetings of Council on 16 March & 11 May 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

19/26 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising for consideration

20/26 ANNOUNCEMENTS

20.1 MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor & Deputy Mayor reported on recent engagements including the Lord Lieutenants Awards Night and Crucial Crew.

The Mayor read out a draft letter he proposed to send to the Mayor of Shrewsbury Massachusetts.

21/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no public questions submitted.

22/26 MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There was one motion submitted by Members.

Motion: Adoption of a “Repair First” Policy for Town Council Assets

Proposed by: Cllr Kate Halliday

Seconded by: Cllr Rosemary Dartnall

Reason for motion:

Adopting a Repair First policy will enable Shrewsbury Town Council to lead by example in promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and supporting the local circular economy. It also presents an opportunity to reduce costs over time, increase the lifespan of council assets, and strengthen links with community initiatives such as the Repair Café.

This Council notes that:

- Shrewsbury is fortunate to host an active and well-supported Repair Café, where volunteers help residents repair items and reduce waste.
- Repairing goods rather than replacing them helps reduce carbon emissions, conserve resources, and minimise waste sent to landfill.

- Local authorities have a role to play in leading by example in sustainable asset management and supporting a circular economy.
- Repairing existing assets can, in many cases, reduce long-term costs compared to repeated replacement, particularly for furniture, equipment, and small infrastructure.

This Council further notes that:

- Many public sector organisations are adopting “repair-first” or “reuse-first”.
- National policy frameworks increasingly emphasise sustainability, value for money, and waste reduction.
- The Repair Café is open to active discussions on how they can be involved in supporting repairs taking place

This Council resolves to:

1. **Adopt a “Repair First” principle** for Town Council-owned assets, committing that repair will be actively considered as the default option before replacement, where it is safe, practical, and cost-effective.
2. **Embed this approach into procurement and asset management practices**, including:
 - Considering whole-life costs rather than upfront replacement costs
 - Seeking repair options and quotes before approving replacement
 - Prioritising durable, repairable goods in future purchasing
3. **Work with local community initiatives**, including the Shrewsbury Repair Café, to:
 - Promote awareness of repair opportunities
 - Explore potential collaboration or support (e.g. signposting, venues, small grants, or skills sharing)
4. **Ask officers to review current asset management processes** and report back to Council (or the relevant committee) within 6 months on:
 - Opportunities to implement the Repair First approach
 - Any barriers (e.g. insurance, warranties, procurement rules)
 - Potential financial savings and environmental benefits
5. **Support a culture of reuse and repair within the organisation**, including encouraging staff and councillors to consider repair and refurbishment in day-to-day operations.

In presenting the motion Councillor Halliday wished the Council to look at safe, practical and cost effective ways of maintaining the wide range of Town Council Assets and a preference of repair should always come before replacing. She had visited the Repair Cafe, one of the most active Repair Cafes in the West Midlands and the group were keen to work with the Town Council.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Town Council staff already operated a repair first approach but he was happy to support the motion, but suggested that Item 4 be amended as staff already had a large remit and maybe this would be a suitable remit for the Operations Committee to put this policy into action. Councillor Halliday was happy to accept the amendment.

Members additionally reported on the close working relationship the Town Council had with the Mens Shed.

RESOLVED:

That subject to amendments to No 4 to refer the matter to the Operations Committee, the motion as presented be adopted.

23/26 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS & SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

23.1 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 Policy & Resources Committee. The Responsible Finance Officer had provided an extensive summary of the accounts at the last meeting.

The budget had been discussed at length at the Policy & Resources Committee held on 1 June 2026.

23.1.1 Annual Report

The Annual Report (pages 1-9) detailed the activity of the Council and provided a financial comparison for the year compared to the budget. It had been updated to include Visioning and six pillars.

The Financial Summary (page 6) showed that income was skewed by grants and S106/CIL.

Expenses had increased as reported quarterly but there was some positive variance of budget due to strict monitoring and staff not replaced. Capital expenditure included projects all funded by reserves but also CIL income received transferred to reserves.

23.1.2 Statement of Accounting Policies

The Statement of Policies (pages 10-13) remained unchanged.

23.1.3 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement fed into the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and showed how the Council met the assertions. This was updated annually by the Town Clerk and the RFO.

Assertion 8 Significant Events was updated since last year

Assertion 9 – Trust Funds was added just for completeness albeit the Town Council did not hold any trust funds.

Assertion 10 Digital & Data Compliance was a new addition and an extra session had been added to show compliance.

23.1.4 Income and Expenditure Account

There was a net deficit of £74161 this being distorted by dealing with Capital Expenditure and Neighbourhood Fund contributions.

23.1.5 Statement of Movement of Reserves

Additions to the Earmarked Reserves included Visioning Work, Future Projects a provision for improvement works at Weeping Cross and additions for Plant & Vehicles.

23.1.6 Balance Sheet

This showed fixed assets increasing. There were lower current assets than last year, and current liabilities had slightly decreased, for overall reduction in net current assets.

23.1.7 Notes to the Accounts

Overall, the notes were to provide more information for users of the accounts, note sixteen for earmarked Reserve showed the money set aside for each project going forward. There was lots of movement other than budgeted amounts being added or where reserves were used in the year to finance expenditure.

Councillor Halliday enquired whether the Town Council had a General Reserves Policy. She had read in the Medium Term Financial Strategy that it was set at 5% of Precept but the General Reserve did not reflect that. She was worried that the General Reserve only covered 3 weeks' operating costs. A sum equating to 3-6 months would be a more equitable sum. The RFO was asked to review General Reserves and report back to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Report for the financial year 2025/26 be adopted;**
- (ii) That the Statement of Accounting Policies for the financial year 2025/26 be adopted;**
- (iii) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2025/26 be adopted;**

- (iv) That the Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2025/26 be adopted;
- (v) That the Statement of Movement of Reserves for the financial year 2025/26 be adopted;
- (vi) That the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026 be adopted.

23.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return

The Responsible Financial Officer had prepared the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the period 2025/26. This had three sections:

1. Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 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 2025/26 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 2025/26. 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 2026. At this point, the accounts and Annual Return would be made public.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2025/26 be approved and signed by the Mayor & Town Clerk;
- (ii) That the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 prepared following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities, be approved and signed as by the Mayor and RFO

24/26 POLICY CHANGES

The HR Officer presented a report outlining the changes she had made to various policies in light of the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Regulations and the Employment Right Act. It was pointed out that these were changes in relation to changes in legislation and not changes per say, therefore these policies haven't been brought to the Joint Consultative Committee or the Unions for approval.

RESOLVED

That changes to policies outlines in the HR Officer's Report be approved and adopted.

25/26 KNIFE ANGEL

The Town Clerk reported to Members that the nationally recognised Knife Angel sculpture was put in place in the Square on Wednesday 17 June and would be remain until Friday 31 July.

Standing at 27 feet tall and created from more than 100,000 surrendered knives and blades, the Knife Angel was a powerful national monument designed to raise awareness of the impact of violent crime and knife-related violence, while encouraging positive conversations around community safety, compassion and hope.

The visit formed part of a wider programme of engagement with schools, community organisations, charities, faith groups, emergency services and local residents to promote awareness, education and support.

While knife crime was often perceived as an issue affecting larger cities, the message behind the Knife Angel was relevant to every community. Hosting the sculpture in Shrewsbury provided an opportunity for reflection, education and unity, while reinforcing the importance of working together to create safer and stronger communities for everyone.

They were also running an Art Competition for young people in Shrewsbury to capture the Knife Angel in which ever medium they wished. Entries would close at the end of August, and winners would be announced in early September.

There will be an official launch of the Knife Angel held in the Square on Friday 3rd July. The Town Clerk asked if Councillors could please respond to the Mayor's Secretary email regarding attendance. There would also be a farewell to the Knife Angel being held on Thursday 30 July with more details to follow.

The Committee Clerk had also issued out an invitation to a Knife Awareness Training Course for all Councillors to be held on Thursday 22 July at 6.00pm. The training would be held at Livesey House, but a Teams link had also been made available. The Town Clerk asked if Councillors could let the Committee Clerk know their attendance.

Members felt that the Knife Angel was a fabulous addition to the Square; its presence was a powerful and stark reminder of a very serious issue.

26/26 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 13 April & 1 June 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 13 April & 1 June 2026 be received and adopted.

27/26 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Operations Committee held on 6 May 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026 be received and adopted.

28/26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14 April, 12 May & 9 June 2026 were submitted as circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14 April, 12 May & 9 June 2026 be received and adopted.

29/26 COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee held on 1 April & 3 June 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 1 April & 3 June 2026 be received and adopted.

30/26 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 30 April 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 30 April 2026 be received and adopted.

31/26 WORKING GROUPS

31.1 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Shrewsbury in Bloom working group held on 19 March, 16 April, 21 May & 18 June 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Shrewsbury in Bloom working group held on 19 March, 16 April, 21 May & 18 June 2026 be received and adopted.

31.2 COST OF LIVING SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Cost-of-Living sub-committee held on 28 May 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cost-of-Living sub-Committee held on 28 May 2026 be received and adopted.

31.3 GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grants sub-committee held on 18 March 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Grants sub-Committee held on 18 March 2026 be received and adopted.

31.4 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 15 April 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 15 April 2026 be received and adopted.

32/26 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. He thanked members of the public for logging in. All papers relating to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

33/26 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 24 April 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 24 April 2026 be received and adopted.

34/26 CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked members and staff for their attendance and closed the meeting.