

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of Council
Held at Livesey House, 7 St Johns Hill, Shrewsbury at
6pm on Monday 28 September 2026

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources), Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer) and two members of the public.

35/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillor Dartnall

36/26 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	Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council
Councillor Wilson	Member of Shropshire Council Cabinet
Councillor Vasmer	Portfolio Holder for Highways & Environment at Shropshire Council

37/26 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 29 June 2026 be submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Full Meeting of Council on 29 June 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

38/26 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising for consideration

39/26 WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER – TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY 2026

The Mayor introduced Tracy Onslow, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, who had joined the meeting to discuss the Town and Parish Council Survey and to hear any policing concerns from members.

Ms Onslow thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend. She explained that she was attending to encourage the Council to complete the latest Town and Parish Council Survey, which members had participated in previously. Since its introduction in 2020, the survey had become an important mechanism through which local councils could share their views and experiences regarding local policing. The feedback received helps inform policing priorities and ensures that the views of local communities are reflected in the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Mercia Police.

Ms Onslow emphasised the value of continued participation and urged the Council to complete the survey again this year.

Members raised a number of local policing concerns and observations following the presentation from the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Tandy highlighted ongoing issues in his ward relating to anti-social behaviour involving young people, noting a particular incident involving a burglary that had caused concern among residents.

(Councillor Daniels joined the meeting)

In response to wider discussions around road safety, it was noted that responsibility for implementing measures such as 20mph speed limits primarily rested with the local highway authority. However, members agreed that enforcement and road safety remained important issues for local residents.

Councillor Mosley welcomed the positive engagement undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams, particularly through the regular use of mobile police engagement vans in areas such as Castlefields and Bagley. He noted that attendance had initially been modest but had grown over time, with local councillors helping to publicise the sessions. The service was described as well

received, providing residents with accessible advice and opportunities to raise concerns directly with officers.

(Councillor Vasmer joined the meeting)

Councillor Wilson raised concerns regarding the increasing use of electric bicycles and e-scooters, particularly where vehicles had been modified to exceed legal speed limits.

It was queried whether accident statistics were available relating to e-bikes and e-scooters. Ms Onslow advised that collision data was collected where such vehicles were involved in incidents. She noted that national data suggested riders themselves were more frequently injured than pedestrians, although concerns remained regarding public safety, particularly where vehicles were used on pavements and shared-use paths.

There were concerns about the speed at which some vehicles were travelling, particularly in riverside areas and along shared pedestrian routes. It was noted that some imported electric bicycles could be modified to exceed legal speed restrictions, creating potential hazards for pedestrians. Ms Onslow advised that enforcement activity had been undertaken elsewhere in the region and agreed to raise the matter with local policing teams.

Councillor Mosley welcomed the Town Council's decision to assume responsibility for the town centre CCTV network and expressed support for its continued operation. While acknowledging previous support provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office for CCTV investment, he voiced disappointment that ongoing revenue funding was not available. Nevertheless, they recognised the value that residents and businesses attached to retaining the system.

Councillor Mosley highlighted ongoing concerns regarding drug use and anti-social behaviour in several areas, including Castle Walk, English Bridge and surrounding green spaces. Drug dealing and drug use had been long-standing issues in some locations and, while not necessarily increasing, remained a persistent concern. Members suggested that occasional patrols through parks, footpaths and open spaces could have a visible deterrent effect and assist officers in gathering intelligence about local activity. Ms Onslow agreed to seek feedback from local policing teams regarding current enforcement activity and patrol arrangements.

It was questioned whether issues regularly raised by the Town Council were being fully considered by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, citing repeated concerns relating to vehicle speeding and anti-social driving. Ms

Onslow assured members that correspondence and concerns submitted by the Council were received and considered. She offered to provide updates on actions taken in relation to specific issues raised by councillors and residents.

Several Members noted that residents wished to receive more feedback regarding actions taken following reports they had submitted.

Councillor Jephcott expressed concern about anti-social use of modified motorcycles around the town, particularly along the Ellesmere Road, Battlefield Link Road and A49 corridor. Groups of riders were regularly using these routes at excessive speeds, particularly late in the evenings and at weekends. There was concern that modified exhaust systems created significant noise nuisance for nearby residents, including those living in care homes along affected routes. The issue had become more prevalent since the COVID-19 pandemic and that there was a growing risk of a serious collision if enforcement action was not increased.

While members praised the work of local neighbourhood officers and PCSOs, they felt that greater priority should be given to tackling dangerous driving and motorcycle racing. Ms Onslow agreed to raise the issue with the relevant road safety teams and seek an update on enforcement activity.

Praise was given to neighbourhood officers and PCSOs for their visibility, engagement with community groups and attendance at local meetings. Members noted that grassroots engagement had improved and was valued by residents.

Councillor Bentick reported long-standing concerns relating to drug activity and anti-social behaviour but praised the excellent engagement provided by local PCSOs and neighbourhood officers. It was noted that PCSOs regularly attended community meetings and were doing all they could within available resources. However, concern was expressed that PCSOs did not routinely work beyond 7.00pm, which limited their ability to address issues occurring later in the day. The theft of bicycles, including electric bicycles, was identified as a particular concern, alongside ongoing issues such as littering and dog fouling.

He also raised concerns regarding the process for reporting incidents to the police. It was noted that residents frequently complained about the length of time required to make reports via the non-emergency 101 telephone service. Similar concerns were expressed about the online reporting system, with members suggesting that completing an online report could take around 30 minutes even for those familiar with the process.

Members requested that these concerns be relayed to the appropriate authorities.

Ms Onslow thanked members for their comments and constructive engagement. She undertook to provide individual responses and updates on the issues raised during the discussion where appropriate.

The Mayor thanked Ms Onslow for attending and for her willingness to follow up on the matters raised by members.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk reflect the issues raised at the meeting and complete the Town & Parish Council survey as a Town Council response.

40/26 ANNOUNCEMENTS

40.1 MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor reported that he had a very busy calendar since the last meeting of Full Council with over 60 mayoral engagements and he thanked the Deputy Mayor Kevin Pardy for standing in when needed. During that time, the leaving of the Knife Angel was quite an important event and marked the end of a huge amount of engagement. He thanked everybody who was involved in the events.

There had been a visit from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to Men's Shed, which was very interesting and beneficial for the town as well as to Men's Shed. There had also been the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Open event and various sports related events, including the Mayor running the Park Run in his day chain.

40.2 TOWN CLERK ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that Remembrance Sunday will be on the 8 November, and the Mayor's Secretary will be sending invitations out shortly. Christmas Lights Switch on is on Wednesday 18th of November and Carols in the Square this year will be on Wednesday 16th December. Members had also been invited to the Shrewsbury Street Pastors stakeholder celebration evening on Thursday 15 October at Barnabas Church. If they were able to attend, she asked if they could respond to the invite. The Deputy Mayor would be in attendance also.

41/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that standing orders had been followed in seeking questions ahead of the meeting, but she had accepted questions up until 4pm on the day of this meeting.

There were no public questions received.

42/26 MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were two motions submitted by Members.

Motion 1 – proposed by Rosemary Dartnall, seconded by Kate Halliday.

After World War 2, European towns twinned primarily to promote reconciliation and mutual understanding between former enemy nations. By connecting local communities across borders, grassroots leaders hoped to heal the trauma of war, rebuild broken relationships, and prevent future conflict in Europe.

Shrewsbury was formally twinned with Zutphen in the Netherlands from 1977 until 2018, when the partnership ended due to budget constraints and a review of agreements at the Dutch end of the partnership. It's possible Shrewsbury is the only UK county town without a twinning partner.

Bridgnorth is twinned with two partners: one in France, one in Germany. Ludlow, Market Drayton, Wem, Whitchurch, Wellington and Oswestry are variously twinned with towns in France, Italy, Belgium and Wales.

Metropolitan Boroughs have twinning agreements, mostly in Europe but also China, Oman and India. Notably Barnsley is twinned with Horlivka in the Donetsk region of Ukraine and Malvern is linked to Korosten

Twinning and solidarity partnerships between British towns/cities and Ukrainian communities have grown significantly, especially as a tangible symbol of support following the 2022 Russian invasion. Notable UK-Ukraine twinning links include Edinburgh & Kyiv: Twinned near the end of the Soviet era in 1989, representing one of the earliest major capital-to-capital pairings. Sheffield & Donetsk: Sheffield famously twinned with Stalino (later renamed Donetsk) in 1956 as part of post-WWII peace initiatives, leading to commemorative names like Donetsk Way in Sheffield. Formal relations with Donetsk have been heavily impacted by the prolonged war following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Mila Prysyazhna is resident in Column and Sutton. She is energetic and wants to work with local people to support her home country as it faces extreme hardship. Mila runs a charity called Shropshire Supports Ukraine. Mila has a contact, Andrii Brynychak, a priest from Lviv: a city in the safest part of Ukraine, who moved his family to help those living in Okhtyrka, a town on the Ukraine/Russian border. He has remained there since.

Shrewsbury has not been twinned with another town for eight years. Local people have shown their generosity in recent times, providing much-needed support and supplies for refugees living here at a time of crisis. In return, refugees fleeing war and strife in their home countries have contributed enormously to Shrewsbury through work and culture. With the ongoing war in Ukraine, twinning with a town on the front line seems like a suitable focus for our citizens.

Okhtyrka, in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy Oblast, has a long and proud Cossack history. Cossacks were free warrior communities who defended Ukraine and fought for their freedom and independence. The modern town was founded in 1641 as a wooden fortress and quickly became an important and powerful military and administrative centre.

Centuries later, Okhtyrka, once again became a fortress when it defended itself fiercely from the very first day of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Ukrainian forces and local defenders stopped Russian troops from taking the town. Okhtyrka was strategically important because capturing it would have opened routes deeper into Ukraine, including towards Kyiv.

Okhtyrka endured a month of intense fighting, artillery shells and air strikes. Hundreds of buildings and critical infrastructure were damaged or destroyed, and many Ukrainian soldiers and civilians were killed. Despite this, Russian forces never succeeded in occupying Okhtyrka. In recognition of the courage and resilience shown by its defenders and residents, Okhtyrka was awarded the honorary title Hero City of Ukraine in March 2022 and Ukraine's defenders today carry the spirit of the Cossacks — courageous, resilient and determined to defend their land, their people and their freedom.

Like Shrewsbury, Okhtyrka is on the border with another country. Okhtyrka has a Ukrainian population of 87% and 8% Russian: a total population of approx. 47,000. In the future, it may be possible to consider reciprocal visits and exchanges, shared interests and promote mutual understanding but at present, this proposed twinning will be an act of friendship and support for those in Okhtyrka at a time of unimaginable crisis.

Shrewsbury Town Council resolves to create a cross-party working group to look at the potential for Shrewsbury twinning with Okhtyrka. The working group should be small and focused and it should comprise councillors, Mila and other interested individuals. The working group should work quickly and report back with an update and recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee, on 7 December 2026.

Councillor Mosely proposed the motion in the absence of Councillor Dartnall. He explained that the motion sought agreement to explore the possibility of establishing a twinning relationship with the Ukrainian town of Okhtyrka, while also reviewing whether the Council's former twinning relationship with Zutphen in the Netherlands could be re-established following several years of inactivity.

The motion referenced the severe impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Okhtyrka's position close to the frontline during parts of the conflict. Members were reminded that a report would be brought back by a proposed working group with recommendations on how such relationships might be developed.

Councillor Mosley invited a representative of the local Ukrainian community to address the Council.

Mila Prysyazhna who had coordinated volunteer support for Ukraine in Shropshire since the beginning of the war, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

She reminded members that, despite receiving less media coverage than in the early stages of the conflict, Ukraine continued to come under attack on a daily basis. She referred to recent attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and universities, and stressed that civilians continued to lose their lives far beyond the immediate frontline areas.

She explained that when approached about the possibility of twinning with a Ukrainian town, he had recommended Okhtyrka, located in the Sumy region of north-eastern Ukraine, approximately 20-25 kilometres from the Russian border. She described her strong links with the town through a local priest and volunteer with whom she had worked over the previous three years. Through these contacts, she had helped provide humanitarian aid and vehicles for evacuation work and had witnessed first-hand the hardships being experienced by local residents. Mila told members that she continued to receive regular updates from the town and felt that Okhtyrka would be a particularly meaningful partner because of the suffering endured by its residents throughout the conflict. The Mayor thanked her for her contribution.

Councillor Wilson expressed his support for the proposal, stating that it was important to extend a hand of friendship to communities facing such difficult circumstances. He observed that Shrewsbury had not had an active twinning relationship for some time and that supporting a Ukrainian town during an ongoing conflict felt particularly appropriate. Whilst the practical implications of a future relationship would be determined later, he believed that the gesture of friendship and solidarity was significant in its own right.

Councillor Wilson also supported exploring renewed links with Zutphen but felt that the immediate focus should be on expressing support for Okhtyrka and its residents.

Councillor Pardy confirmed that he would support the motion. Whilst he had generally been cautious about twinning arrangements in the past, he considered this proposal to be fundamentally different because of the humanitarian circumstances involved. He said the proposal would send an important message that the people of Shrewsbury had not forgotten those affected by the war in Ukraine. He reflected that, although public attention may have shifted over time, the conflict continued and residents of Ukraine still deserved the support and solidarity of communities elsewhere.

Councillor Pardy added that he would be concerned about any arrangement that incurred significant expenditure or overseas travel costs, particularly at a time when residents were facing increasing financial pressures. However, he saw the current proposal primarily as an expression of support and friendship.

Councillor Dean also welcomed the motion. He noted that the proposal appeared to be seeking a different type of relationship from traditional town twinning arrangements and felt this was a positive approach.

He recalled the strong sense of solidarity shown within Shrewsbury since the outbreak of the war and argued that it was important to maintain those international connections.

Councillor Dean did, however, raise a concern regarding historical references contained in the background information accompanying the motion. Whilst acknowledging the significance of the Cossack heritage referred to, he cautioned against presenting historical events in an overly simplified way, noting that there were more complex aspects of the region's history. Notwithstanding that observation, he confirmed his support for the motion itself.

Councillor Wagner spoke in favour of the proposal and welcomed the contribution made by Mila. He reflected on the generosity and solidarity shown by residents of Shrewsbury towards Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict and expressed the hope that the town could continue and strengthen that support.

Councillor Wagner suggested that closer links with Okhtyrka would not only demonstrate solidarity but would also provide opportunities for residents of Shrewsbury to learn more about the region's culture, history and heritage. He noted the rich and diverse historical influences on the area and believed there was much that communities could learn from one another.

Councillor Halliday welcomed the broad support expressed around the Council chamber. She described the proposal as an opportunity to extend friendship during exceptionally difficult times and suggested that even relatively small actions by local councils could provide meaningful support to communities experiencing hardship.

Councillor Halliday also agreed that there were likely to be mutual benefits through stronger cultural and community links and thanked members for their contributions to the discussion.

The Mayor noted that the word heard most frequently throughout the discussion had been "solidarity". He said this reflected the shared feeling of members towards the people of Okhtyrka and the wider Ukrainian community.

The Town Clerk asked which members would be on the working group. Members agreed that it would be Councillors Dartnall, Wilson, Fejfer and Pardy

RESOLVED:

That Shrewsbury Town Council:

- 1. Establish a small cross-party working group with Councillors Dartnall, Fejfer, Pardy & Wilson) to explore the potential for a twinning relationship between Shrewsbury and Okhtyrka, Ukraine;**
- 2. Invite participation from councillors and other interested individuals;**
- 3. Request that the working group report back with its findings and recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 December 2026**

(Two members of the public left the meeting)

Motion 2 – proposed by Julian Dean, seconded by Emma Micklewright.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Shrewsbury

Council notes:

- *That climate change is already affecting Shrewsbury, with increasing risks from prolonged periods of extreme heat, drought, intense rainfall, surface-water and river flooding, storms, damage to trees and green infrastructure, and pressures on biodiversity, food production and public health.*
- *That the impacts of climate change are expected to become more frequent and severe, even with continued action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *That climate change adaptation and carbon reduction are not competing priorities. Many of the actions needed to reduce emissions can also make Shrewsbury healthier, greener and more resilient, including increasing tree canopy, restoring nature, improving soil and water management, reducing car dependency, improving walking and cycling infrastructure and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings.*
- *That the Town Council has an important role to play in climate adaptation through its responsibility for parks, open spaces, countryside, trees, cemeteries, community facilities, youth services and other local services, as well as through its role as a landowner, community leader, partner and advocate for the town.*
- *That the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan, the Council's Vision, its commitment to carbon neutrality, its Biodiversity Plan and its developing Food Resilience Strategy provide an important framework through which climate adaptation can be embedded in the future development and management of Shrewsbury.*
- *That restoring and connecting nature is fundamental to climate resilience, including through increased tree canopy, wetlands, healthy soils, hedgerows, meadows, riverside habitats and connected green corridors, which can help to manage heat, surface water, flooding and biodiversity loss while improving the quality of life for residents.*
- *That access to affordable, nutritious and locally produced food is also an important element of community resilience, particularly in the face of increasing climate and economic pressures.*

Council believes:

That Shrewsbury should be a town which is not only reducing its contribution to climate change but is actively preparing for the climate impacts that are already unavoidable.

That climate adaptation should therefore be embedded across the Town Council's policies, projects, land management and service delivery, rather than being treated as a separate environmental issue.

That the future development of Shrewsbury should be climate-resilient, nature-positive and people-centred, reflecting the principles of the Big Town Plan and the Council's Vision.

That investment in nature, green infrastructure, sustainable transport, resilient buildings, local food systems and community preparedness can simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity loss, public health, inequality and the quality of the town's public realm.

That the Town Council should use its position as a major local landowner, service provider, employer and community leader to demonstrate what practical climate adaptation can look like at town level and to work with Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency, local communities, businesses, voluntary organisations and other partners to increase the resilience of Shrewsbury as a whole.

Council resolves:

1. Climate resilience and the Shrewsbury Test within the Local Plan

To incorporate climate adaptation and resilience into the Council's consideration of major policies, strategies, capital projects and development proposals, including through the Shrewsbury Test, so that future decisions consider their contribution to:

- *reducing carbon emissions;*
- *reducing vulnerability to extreme heat, flooding, drought and other climate risks;*
- *protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecological networks;*
- *increasing green infrastructure and tree canopy;*
- *improving sustainable transport and reducing car dependency;*
- *supporting resilient local food systems; and*
- *improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life of Shrewsbury's communities.*

2. A climate-resilient town

To ensure that the principles of climate adaptation are embedded in the implementation of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan and the Council's Vision, with particular emphasis on creating a town which is greener, healthier, more

walkable, better connected to nature and better able to withstand extreme weather.

3. Nature as climate infrastructure

To continue to expand and improve the Council's programme of nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement, recognising the role of:

- *trees and urban woodland;*
- *green corridors;*
- *hedgerows and meadows;*
- *wetlands and river corridors;*
- *healthy soils;*
- *sustainable drainage and natural flood management; and*
- *connected habitats*

in reducing climate risks as well as supporting biodiversity.

To ensure that the Council's Biodiversity Plan and its work with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are used to identify opportunities to strengthen Shrewsbury's natural resilience.

4. Climate-resilient public spaces

To review the management and future design of the Council's parks, open spaces, streetscapes and other public places to identify opportunities to:

- *provide greater shade and cooling during periods of extreme heat;*
- *increase tree canopy and other vegetation;*
- *improve rainwater infiltration and sustainable drainage;*
- *reduce the risk of surface-water flooding;*
- *protect soils and biodiversity; and*
- *provide accessible green and blue spaces which support health and wellbeing.*

5. Food resilience

To ensure that the emerging Food Resilience Strategy considers the implications of climate change for the availability, affordability and resilience of food, and explores opportunities for the Town Council to support:

- *local food production;*
- *community growing;*

- *allotments and productive green spaces;*
- *local food networks and markets;*
- *reduction of food waste; and*
- *greater public understanding of sustainable and resilient food systems.*

6. Council operations and workforce

To ensure that climate adaptation risks are incorporated into the Council's corporate risk-management arrangements and business continuity planning.

To ensure that the Council continues to provide safe working arrangements for its employees and contractors during periods of extreme heat, flooding, storms and other severe weather, including appropriate arrangements for modifying or suspending work where conditions create an unacceptable risk.

7. Community resilience

To consider how the Town Council's community programmes, including its work with young people and community organisations, can contribute to building local resilience to extreme weather and climate impacts.

To explore opportunities through existing Council funding programmes and partnerships to support practical community-led projects which help residents, particularly those who may be more vulnerable, to prepare for and respond to extreme heat, flooding and other climate-related risks.

8. Leading by example

To ask officers to prepare a public-facing report setting out how climate adaptation and resilience are currently being addressed across the Town Council's services, land and projects, identifying opportunities for further action and demonstrating how the Council's work on:

- *carbon neutrality;*
- *biodiversity and nature recovery;*
- *green infrastructure;*
- *public realm;*
- *sustainable transport;*
- *food resilience; and*
- *community resilience*

can contribute to a more climate-resilient Shrewsbury.

9. Working with partners

To use the Town Council's role within the Big Town Plan Partnership and its relationships with Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency, local communities, businesses and voluntary organisations to promote a coordinated approach to climate adaptation across Shrewsbury.

10. National advocacy

To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Julia Buckley MP seeking Government support for:

- properly funded locally delivered climate adaptation and resilience measures;*
- appropriate powers and resources for town and parish councils to contribute to local climate adaptation;*
- investment in climate-resilient public infrastructure, schools, health and care settings and housing; and*
- a national adaptation strategy which recognises the important role of town and parish councils in delivering practical resilience at community level.*

Council further resolves:

To recognise that climate resilience is not simply an environmental issue but a fundamental part of the future prosperity, health, wellbeing and sustainability of Shrewsbury, and that the Town Council will seek to ensure that adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity recovery, food resilience and sustainable development are considered together in shaping the future of the town.

Members were in support of the motion which highlighted practical measures that could help communities respond to increasingly extreme weather conditions. Particular reference was made to areas of the town with large expanses of hard surfaces, such as around Harlescott Crossroads, where the absence of green infrastructure can contribute to higher temperatures.

Councillor Wilson discussed the design of children's play areas. It was noted that traditional metal and plastic play equipment can become extremely hot during summer months, making facilities difficult to use. Greater use of timber play structures, additional tree planting and increased shade provision were suggested as practical responses.

Concerns were also raised about school playgrounds, where large areas of hard surfaced play space offered little protection from heat and sunlight. Councillor Wilson observed that parents frequently sought shelter beneath

trees while waiting to collect children and noted the importance of incorporating greater shade into school environments.

Councillor Wilson expressed support for writing to the relevant authorities on the issue and noted that work was already being undertaken around measures such as rainwater harvesting systems for domestic properties.

Councillor Jephcott welcomed the motion, describing it as a thoughtful and well-structured response to the challenges posed by recent periods of extreme weather.

He particularly welcomed the references to food resilience and highlighted the importance of ensuring communities can contribute to and participate in a resilient food system. Councillor Jephcott also spoke in support of increased tree planting throughout the town. He noted that access to tree cover should not be limited to wealthier areas and highlighted examples within his ward where uncertainty over ownership and maintenance responsibilities had resulted in trees being removed. He argued that greater clarity around land ownership and maintenance responsibilities would help ensure all communities benefit from the cooling and environmental advantages provided by trees.

Councillor Kevin Pardy described the motion as a "no-brainer" and reflected on previous periods of extreme heat, including the summer of 1976. While acknowledging historical occurrences of hot weather, he said that recent evidence and data clearly demonstrated that climate conditions were changing. He wished the initiative success and suggested that, at a future meeting, consideration could be given to providing shade around the splash park, which currently offered little protection from the sun.

The Mayor also expressed strong support for the motion and drew attention to the formation of the Shrewsbury Community Land Trust, a new volunteer-led organisation. He expressed hope that the Council would be able to work with the Trust to maximise the benefits of green spaces for residents.

Councillor Micklewright thanked members for their support in this motion.

Councillor Dean thanked members for their support, stressing the need to treat climate adaptation with urgency. He noted that residents had already experienced the effects of extreme heat during the summer and argued that climate resilience should be embedded across all areas of the Council's work and decision-making.

Councillor Mosley observed that a similar motion had recently been debated at Shropshire Council and had not received the same level of support. The Mayor responded that the two authorities had different responsibilities and were considering separate motions.

RESOLVED:

That the Motion presented be adopted

43/26 END OF YEAR AUDIT

The Council received details of the external audit of the end-of-year accounts and considered the publication of those accounts.

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) advised that the Council had received the auditor's Section 3 report during the previous week. However, the report was currently issued on an interim basis, as the auditor had not yet completed its review. Outstanding work related to correspondence received concerning previous years' annual governance and accountability returns.

The RFO explained that he had sought clarification from the auditor regarding issues connected to the budget process and cost-of-living grant allocations. Given the limited timeframe within which local council audits are undertaken each year, the review remained ongoing.

Once the auditor had completed its work and addressed all outstanding matters, a final report and certificate of completion would be issued. The RFO undertook to report back to Council when further information became available.

The RFO confirmed that, in the meantime, the interim report must be published in accordance with the relevant requirements.

Members sought clarification that formal acceptance did not need to be deferred. The Town Clerk advised that the Council should accept the report in its current interim form to allow for publication in line with legislation and note that a final report would subsequently be received.

RESOLVED:

That the External Auditors Interim End of Year report be noted and published in line with the Account & Audit Regulation

44/26 RIGHT TO REPAIR DECLARATION

The Council considered a recommendation made by the Communities & Environment Committee to sign the Right to Repair Declaration.

The Town Clerk explained that the matter had previously been considered by the Communities and Environment Committee following a presentation from the Repair Café. The declaration sought to encourage manufacturers to design products that could be repaired rather than discarded, reducing waste and supporting a circular economy.

Members were informed that the declaration had already attracted hundreds of signatures from community groups, national organisations, businesses and Members of Parliament.

Members expressed support for the proposal. It was noted that Shrewsbury benefited from an active and successful Repair Café, which already promoted the principles underpinning the declaration.

RESOLVED

That Shrewsbury Town Council sign the Right to Repair Declaration.

45/26 FOOD RESILIENCE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

The Council considered a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee to develop a Food Resilience Strategy and Action Plan in partnership with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

The Town Clerk explained that the report had been presented previously to the Policy and Resources Committee and highlighted the need to prepare for potential food supply shocks. Such risks could arise from global events, including conflict and fuel price increases, as well as local climate pressures.

Particular attention had been given to the growing impact of extreme weather events, including cycles of drought and flooding, and the implications these could have for food production and supply.

The proposal had received cross-party support at the Policy and Resources Committee. However, because no specific budget allocation had been identified at that stage, a recommendation was referred to Full Council for approval. Members were advised that funding could be drawn from existing earmarked reserves established for climate emergency initiatives.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council;

- 1) Approves the development of a Food Resilience Strategy and Action Plan in collaboration with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership;**
- 2) Allocates £20,000 to meet the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan, to be funded from the Climate Emergency Reserve**

46/26 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 13 July & 14 September 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 13 July & 14 September 2026 be received and adopted.

47/26 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Operations Committee held on 1 July & 9 September 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 1 July & 9 September 2026 be received and adopted.

48/26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 7 July, 4 August & 1 September 2026 were submitted as circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 7 July, 4 August & 1 September 2026 be received and adopted.

49/26 COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee held on 12 August 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 12 August 2026 be received and adopted.

50/26 WORKING GROUPS

50.1 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Shrewsbury In Bloom working group held on 9 July 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Shrewsbury In Bloom working group held on 9 July 2026 be received and adopted.

50.2 GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Grants Sub Committee held on 29 July 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Grants sub committee held on 29 July 2026 be received and adopted.

50.3 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED:

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

51/26 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

52/26 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9 July, 4 September & 10 September 2026 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9 July, 4 September & 10 September 2026 be received and adopted.

53/26 CLOSING REMARKS

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