

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 30 April 2026
at the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury

PRESENT – Councillors Alex Wagner (Mayor), Bernie Bentick, Jamie Daniels, Kate Halliday, Harry Hancock-Davies, Rob Wilson, Alan Mosley, Kev Pardy, Jon Tandy, Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean, Emma Micklewright, Ben Jephcott, Rhys Gratton, Adam Fejfer & Vicky Moore.

IN ATTENDANCE – Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Ruth Jones (Office Manager), Michelle Farmer (Committee Clerk), Heather Kidd (Leader of Shropshire Council), Julia Buckley MP, Rachel Ryan (Chief inspector – West Mercia Police) and Seb Slater (Shrewsbury BID) & 27 Members of the Public and 10 online.

09/25 INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting, both present at the Guildhall and online. He outlined the role of the Annual Town Meeting. It wasn't a meeting of the Town Council, though the Mayor did chair the meeting and Councillors and Officers were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to give electors of the Parish of Shrewsbury an opportunity to raise any matters of interest or concern to the Council. This is a meeting for the residents and electors of the Parish of Shrewsbury. If there were any residents of Bickton or Bayston Hill joining these areas had their own Parish Councils so they may wish to contact their Local Clerk or Councillors.

10/25 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 19 May 2025 had been circulated.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19 May 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

11/25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising or updates from those minutes

12/25 FUTURE PRIORITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2026 ONWARDS

Councillor Wilson began by giving an overview of future priorities and to report on the Town Council's activities during 2025/26. In presenting the Annual Town Report, he detailed the priorities for 2026/27:

- (i) Stepping Up with the Streetscene Team
- (ii) Additional Infrastructure including additional lighting and play
- (iii) Leading Change

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report be approved.

13/25 PARTNER REPORTS

- (i) **Heather Kidd - Leader of Shropshire Council**
Councillor Kidd detailed the different way of working with Parish & Town Councils. She saw Shropshire Council's role as an enabler to allow organisations to do things differently and being more proud of their areas. She believed that parish councils could carry out better services. She detailed the Streetscene Services trial involving Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Broseley & Shifnal.
- (ii) **Julia Buckley – MP**
The MP detailed her role in bringing partners together on crucial issues including Public Transport, Flooding and the NHS.
- (iii) **CI Rachel Ryan – West Merica Police**
Chief Inspector Ryan detailed the work of the town centre Safe Neighbourhood Team and improvements they had made in reducing shoplifting and ASB. Police worked exceptionally well with the Town Rangers, Park Rangers and Taxi Marshals and good use of the PSPO and powers to issue Community Protection Warnings & Notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders was creating a safer town centre. The Home Office had established Knife Crime Hotspots, and the Police were delighted to support the hosting of the Knife Angel this summer.
- (iv) **Seb Slater – Shrewsbury Business Improvement District**
Seb Slater detailed the work of the Business Improvement District; it was one of 350 BIDs across the country. Partnership was at the heart of the BID's work, and they were working on a number of themes:
 - Original Shrewsbury
 - Safety
 - Work in Shrewsbury
 - Shrewsbury Big Town Plan
 - Vitality Life & Mix

14/25 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING QUESTIONS/PUBLIC FORUM

- (i) **ASB & Drugs** – Councillor Mosley wished to stress that these issues didn't just happen in the town centre, and he asked CI Ryan to ensure that SNT staff cover the whole of the town.
- (ii) **Rangers** – A resident asked that given there had been a bigger police presence in the town centre, would this mean a reduction in Town Rangers. Councillor Wilson reported that this would not happen. This was a joint Town Council/BID project.
- (iii) **Government Funding** – A resident asked whether the MP would lobby government to reverse the budget cuts to Local Government. The MP reported on the additional funding she had secured for potholes and the necessary governance routes that Shropshire Council would have to go down to secure additional funding. Councillor Kidd reported on the difficulty in providing services in a rural county with an aging population and the fact that the Council had had to seek Exceptional Financial Support.
- (iv) **Exceptional Financial Support** – Councillor Dean detailed the significance of Shrewsbury as a gateway to the Midlands and Wales and the need to fund a better public transport network.
- (v) **ASB – Harlescott** – Councillor Tandy detailed the negative impact of the 10 O'clock Club driving around the Harlescott area
- (vi) **Shrewsbury Town Council** – Stan Sedman wished to point out how lucky the town was to have the Town Council, a council that was well led, well managed and created a wonderful place to live. He found it a pleasure to live in Shrewsbury, and he wanted to thank the Town Council for their efforts.
- (vii) **Sundorne Sports Village** – Mr Kilby asked whether Shropshire Council has reviewed the costs of a new swimming pool at £28m. Other places were building a pool at a fraction of the cost. Councillor Kidd advised that the cost wasn't just for the pool but to remodel the whole site. Whilst the project was on hold, Shropshire Council still had a duty to provide swimming facilities to primary schools. The Quarry pool would remain a working pool.

16/25 CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor paused the live feed so that the workshop could begin. He thanked those online for attending. He felt that meeting had been very productive and showed the scale of work taking place in the town.

17/25 WORKSHOP

Those attending were invited to take part in a workshop exercise on the future of the Quarry Park.