

## **SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Annual Meeting of Council Held at the Walker Theatre, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury at 6.00pm on Monday 11 May 2026**

#### **PRESENT**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

#### **1/26 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2026/27**

It was proposed by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Halliday and

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Bernie Bentick be elected the Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2027.**

*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.

#### **2/26 MAYOR'S SPEECH**

The Mayor spoke of the great honour & privilege to be elected Mayor of Shrewsbury. He thanked the Mayors of Ludlow, Wellington, Whitchurch and Market Drayton, plus former Mayors of Shrewsbury and other local church military and civic dignitaries, my family, friends, neighbours and colleagues past and present, for coming today to support him at the start of my Mayoral year.

The Mayor acknowledged and thanked his colleague Alex Wagner, retiring Shrewsbury Mayor, for his boundless enthusiasm, eloquence during his many speeches and dedication to attending as many Mayoral events as possible, clocking up over 200 during his year. He also thanked his colleagues Cllrs Julian Dean and Kate Halliday for kindly proposing and seconding him for Mayor of Shrewsbury and all Council Members and colleagues for electing him. He thanked Sandy Park and his daughter Jennifer for accepting the shared role of Mayoral Consort for the year.

During his Mayoral year, he would champion the beauty, vitality, culture, heritage and economy of the wonderful town of Shrewsbury. He would also like to assist a restart of the Shrewsbury Flower Show, the establishment of an Outer Shrewsbury Business Improvement District (BID), to promote local charities, facilities and businesses, while helping to build

partnerships for the benefit of all. He would work diligently to maintain the status of the highly respected office of Mayor of Shrewsbury.

The 4 principal charities he had chosen to support during my Mayoral year were:

- Shropshire Mental Health Support
- Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation
- Lingen Davies Cancer Support
- Little Stars

The Mayor also gave enormous thanks to Mayoral Secretary Sally Nicholson, Town Clerk Helen Ball and all the Town Council Officers for the amazing work they do to run The Mayoral Office and Shrewsbury Town Council with such efficiency, professionalism and good humour.

***Councillor Jephcott joined the meeting at 6:28pm***

### **3/26 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Daniels, seconded by Councillor Moore and

**RESOLVED:**

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

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

### **4/26 RESPONSE OF RETIRING MAYOR**

The Outgoing Mayor handed over the chains after an incredible year as Mayor of Shrewsbury. From arts festivals and community events to civic services and charity fundraisers, it had been a real privilege to represent the town he loved so deeply.

What struck him most over the last year was just how much confidence and positivity there was about our town. Independent businesses continued to thrive, visitor and tourist economy was growing, streets were getting cleaner, and there was a real energy around Shrewsbury at the moment... why go to Chester, York or Oxford when Shrewsbury was right here?

He was proud to support the work of the Shrewsbury Street Pastors and West Mercia Search & Rescue, for which he had raised £3800. He thanked Sally Nicholson and Andy Hopkins, of the Mayoral Team for their support during his term of office. He had met some extraordinary people and celebrated the very best of Shrewsbury together.

People kept asking him what's next. The honest answer was a bit of a rest, cricket season, music festivals, more time out and about in Quarry & Coton Hill, and of course lots to keep improving at Shropshire Council.

Finally, he congratulated Cllr Bernie Bentick on becoming Mayor, who he knew would do a brilliant job. It had been a pleasure to serve Shrewsbury.

**5/26 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2026/27**

It was proposed by Councillor Mosley, seconded by Councillor Dartnall and

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Kevin Pardy be elected the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2027.**

**6/26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – 16 MARCH 2026**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 March 2026 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 16 March 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.**

**7/26 COMMUNICATIONS**

None presented.

**8/26 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.**

**9/26 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**
- (ii) **Operations Committee;**
- (iii) **Planning Committee;**
- (iv) **Communities & Environment Committee;**
- (v) **Personnel Committee;**
- (vi) **Complaints, Freedom of Information and Data Protection Committee;**
- (vii) **Grievance Committee;**
- (viii) **Staffing Appeals Committee;**
- (ix) **Council and Employee Joint Consultative Committee;**
- (x) **Committee Chairs;**
- (xi) **Grants Sub Committee;**
- (xii) **Youth Council;**
- (xiii) **Cost of Living Committee**

## **10/26 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

#### **(ii) Operations Committee (8 members)**

Councillor Alan Mosley  
 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 Adam Fejfer  
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) Committee Chairs**

Councillor Rob Wilson  
Councillor Jamie Daniels  
Councillor Alex Wagner  
Councillor Julian Dean

**(ix) Cost of Living Committee**

Councillor Kevin Pardy  
Councillor Rob Wilson  
Councillor Jamie Daniels  
Councillor Emma Micklewright

**(x) External Complaints/FOI/Appeals Committee (3 members)**

Councillor Kate Halliday  
Councillor Jamie Daniels  
Councillor Emma Micklewright

**(xi) Joint Consultative Committee (6 members)**

Councillor Hancock-Davies  
Councillor Alan Mosley  
Councillor Rob Wilson  
Councillor Alex Wagner  
Councillor Adam Fejfer  
Councillor Julian Dean

**11/26 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.**

**12/26 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.**

**13/26 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 Bernie Bentick**
- (2) Deputy Mayor - Cllr Kevin Pardy**
- (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**

#### **14/26 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**

#### **15/26 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.**