

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**CIVICS WORKING GROUP****16TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT – Councillors Julian Dean, Phil Gillam & David Vasmer

IN ATTENDANCE – Helen Ball (Town Clerk) & Carol Pullen (Mayor's Secretary)

APOLOGIES – Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk)

10/21 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None declared

11/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Civics Working Group held on Thursday 8th July were circulated

AGREED

That the minutes of the Civics Working Group Meeting held on 8 July 2021 be signed as a true and accurate record

12/21 MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

The Mayor listed his various activities since the last meeting. He had become increasingly busy and the Deputy Mayor had stood in for him on a couple of occasions.

The Mayor reminded Councillors of his History Tour followed by refreshments at the Castle.

The Mayor reported that he had decided to delay his Music Event as he felt that given the increasing number of COVID cases and hospital admissions, he couldn't morally be encouraging people to gather in indoor settings. He was however keen to replicate the Musicians Photo and was hoping to run the event in the spring. He would also like to do an open air event in the Quarry using the Bandstand; he was advised to contact the Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager.

The Mayor also reported on his visit to the Shropshire Supports Refugees depot in northern Shrewsbury; this was the venue where donations to support Afghan Refugees were being sorted. This visit had come on the back of his attendance at the Cuty of Sanctuary Meeting. The Town Clerk reported that she and the Deputy Town Clerk were investigating how staff might help the organisation through a Corporate Social Responsibility route and this could also involve the Mayor and Councillors; the Mayor was keen to be involved in anything the Town Council could organise.

13/21 MAYORAL FUNDRAISING

The Mayor reported that he had originally intended to raise funds for Lingen Davis locally and Medecin Frontier. He has met with the fundraising team at Lingen Davis but had not been able to make any meaningful contacts with Medecin Frontier. He had therefore decided to focus his fundraising efforts on the local charity.

14/21 MAYOR'S VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

The Town Clerk reported on the tendering work in replacing the Mayor's Car with a full electric vehicle. The Projects Manager had done extensive investigations of all electric vehicles ahead of tendering. The final choice was a Kia Niro. Due to long lead times in vehicles, the order had been placed and should arrive some time in November. It had also been agreed to lease the vehicle rather than purchase as it was felt that the movement in technology of electric vehicles was great and any long-term purchase was not sensible.

The Mayor was keen that the car just wasn't for the exclusive use of the Mayor; the Town Clerk confirmed this was the case.

15/21 FUTURE CIVIC EVENTS

The Town Clerk reported that traditional Civic Services and Events were being planned for the Autumn & Winter seasons. These events would still have to be signed off by both the Safety Advisory Group and Public Health Shropshire and needed to remain fluid particularly given the publication of the Government's Autumn & Winter COVID Plan.

- a. **Battle of Britain Service** – 12th September – The event went off as planned with the service scaled back to a shortened service in the Park. The event ended with a fly past of a Hurricane used in the Battle of Britain.
- b. **Visit by HMS Talent** – Arrangements are in place for a contingent of mariners to visit the town on the 22/23 September. There shall be a reception for the crew on the evening of the 21st September, then the crew would help the Countryside Team with footpath work at Copthorne Park. The Mayor, Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk would meet the Commander for lunch on the Tuesday.
- c. **Remembrance Service** – 14th November – Discussions have taken place with other stakeholders in the event. There shall be the usual Parade from the Castle, but no service in St Chads; instead there shall be a shortened service followed by the 2 minutes silence and wreath laying
- d. **Christmas Lights Switch-on & Carols in the Square** – 24th November & 15th December – these events are run in partnership with the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District and Shrewsbury Shopping Centres for the former and BBC Radio Shropshire for the latter. Meetings are scheduled to discuss the logistics.

16/21 LORD LIEUTENANCY

The Town Clerk reported that the Lord Lieutenant was keen to engage with communities and Parish & Town Councils and she had appointed one of her Deputies to keep lines of communication between her and the Town Council. The Town Clerk had met Claire Crackett DL and the following was discussed:

- The Lord Lieutenant was to hold a COVID Commemoration Service at the Abbey on the 26th September. The Mayor will be invited
- The Lord Lieutenant was looking to commission a COVID Memorial Sculpture to be designed by Paul Kennedy a local artist; this will be installed in the Abbey
- The Lord Lieutenant was happy to write letters of thanks to anyone who have shown dedicated service to their community; of the Town Council has any suggestions she would be happy to receive them
- The Lord Lieutenant has developed a process to submit nominations for national awards and there was an Honours Panel that would help submit any nominations. She was also keen to make nominations to the Queens Award for Enterprise
- The Lord Lieutenant was to hold a Garden Party in June 2022 at Alton Hall in Wellington and will be seeking nominations for attendees from every Parish Council. Shrewsbury will have 12 places.
- The Lord Lieutenant was keen to maximise the take up of the Queens Green Canopy initiative and has appointed Robert Bland DL to lead on progress. The Town Clerk had spoken to Mr Bland and he has been invited to the Town Council's Tree Nursery to see progress and discuss how the Town Council might help support the initiative
- The Lord Lieutenant will ensure that the Lieutenancy is represented at the Remembrance Service in the Quarry
- One of the Lord Lieutenant's Deputies is keen to facilitate a centenary celebration of the Shropshire War Memorial which was installed in July 1922. The Town Clerk would liaise with him to see how this might take place
- The Lord Lieutenant had appointed John Crackett DL to lead on the London Bridge Protocols on her behalf. The Town Council was already an active participant in the county London Bridge Protocol

17/21 MAYOR'S AWARDS

The Town Clerk reported on the need to start the process for Mayoral Awards for 2022. Details of the changes that the previous Mayor had implemented were detailed. The Mayor was happy to follow a similar format. The Mayor's Secretary would make arrangements for the Theatre to be used as the venue sometime in April ahead of Mayor Making.

18/21 MAYOR'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY GUIDE

The Mayor discussed his wish to produce a Climate Emergency Guide to be circulated to anyone requesting his attendance. He had circulated a draft to Working Group Members and colleagues in Shropshire Climate Action Partnership. Councillor Vasmer was keen that this be presented to the Climate Emergency Standing Committee.