

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
Held in Committee Room, Livesey House
At 6.00pm on Monday 2nd December 2024**

PRESENT

Councillors: A Mosley (Chair), E Addams, R Dartnall, J Dean, N Green, A Phillips, D, Vasmer and R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources), Stuart Farmer (Acting Operations Manager and Projects Manager), Danny Powell (Acting Operations Manager) Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets and Events Manager), Andy Hall (Youth & Community Manager) and Heather Phillips (Committee Clerk)

49/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be accepted from Councillor Moseley.

50/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Green	Declared a prejudicial interest in Item 59/24 Markets Update
Councillor Phillips	Ward member for item 67/24 Greenfields Recreation Ground

51/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th September 2024 were submitted and circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th September 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

52/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Town Clerk referred to Min 47/24 and informed members that Shrewsbury won the Academy of Urbanism Great Towns Award. Of particular interest was the level of engagement by the Town Council which judges had said was outstanding. The organisation

also said that the Town Council had much to offer to other towns. Shrewsbury Town Council was granted membership of the Academy for 2025.

53/24 PAYMENT SCHEDULES

Prior to the meeting, the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) circulated the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st September to 22nd November 2024. These had been agreed by two signatories before the RFO and Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk and uploaded for payment. No comments or concerns were raised.

RECOMMENDED:

That the schedule of payments passed for payment for the period 1st September to 22nd November 2024 be approved.

Councillor Vasmer joined the meeting.

54/24 QUARTER 2 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) circulated a report to appraise members of the financial position of the Council for the second quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, and the half year to date position which, overall, was positive.

The RFO highlighted that there was an overall positive variance of £13,173 compared to the budget as shown on the detailed and consolidated Income & Expenditure account report (also circulated).

Expenditure had a negative variance for Quarter 2 of (£17,705) This was driven primarily by (£24,340) on building maintenance. Whilst gross wages were (£3,707), this was due to the provision of the 24/25 pay award (now ratified) backdated to Quarter 1 and April 2024. Over the various expenditure headings, there were small positives and negatives due to timing of expenditure (for example electricity bills were higher during the winter), and, taking all into account, would come in around budget.

Income in Quarter 2 was slightly ahead of budget overall by £30,878, whilst Service Level Agreement (SLA) income was lower than budgeted (£23,231). However, events, other works and interest received brought in an additional £50,221 thereby reversing this. Looking at the year-to-date position, income was slightly behind but should hit budget at year end, even with figures on the SLA.

The balance sheet continued to be strong and there was a slight increase in current assets with lower sales ledger balances than last year. Debtors were also coming in more promptly this year.

Looking to the future, the RFO said that the recently announced employers NI increase would impact the Council in 2025, and in future years would need factoring into the budget. Other than pressure arising from Shropshire Council, there were no current concerns.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Report be noted.

55/24 BUDGET PROPOSALS

A report on Budget Proposals was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The RFO explained that every January the Council must set its budget for the following financial period (2025/26) along with the precept. The forecast for the current year was also prepared.

(i) General principles, implications and assumptions - In order to predict the outturn forecast, the current run rate was used along with experience and current market conditions to arrive at a forecast. The forecast led to the production of the budget and assumptions applied increasing or decreasing revenue items. Factors to consider were:

a) Forecast Outturn of the 2024/25 budget

- Apply current run rate and factor in seasonal and trends
- Pay award agreed and applied variable rate depending on pay 2.5% – 5.8%
- Lower interest rates would lead to lower returns for balances held

b) Impact of Spending Review and local budgetary pressures

From the recent Spending Review, the main implication was the increased employer contributions to National Insurance, and the threshold for paying lowered. Councils that receive direct Government funding were to be exempt from the increase or receive a refund, but this did not apply to Town and Parish Councils and was to cost approximately £56k.

There did not appear to be any substantial additional funding, therefore there would be a real terms reduction for the sector: this would impact Shropshire Council and trickle down to the Town Council. More unitary councils said that they were perilously close to issuing a Section 114 notice.

The RFO said that the Business Rates multiplier for 2025/26 was frozen at 49.9p for small businesses. The standard multiplier increased by CPI to 55.5p.

(i) Inflationary pressures and impacts on the revenue budget

Inflation per ONS statistics was decreasing from last year's 4.7% to nearer the Bank of England target of 2% but had increased back up to 2.3% and was forecast to remain around this level for 2025. The energy price cap was set to rise by 1%, and the increase in employers NI from April 25 would also feed into higher costs and keep inflation above the target and reduce the likelihood of interest rate decreases. Inflation was therefore about 2%.

The Council's basket of goods was different, and comparison of prices over the past year was as follows when compared to last year:

- Diesel/oil	14%
- Petrol	12%
- Waste	0%

- Seeds/ferts 4.24% (average)
- Maintenance 1.78% (average)

Therefore, when setting the budget, a 4% increase shall be applied for seeds/ferts, 2% increase for maintenance and repair costs, 0% change for fuel, and 2% increase across the other costs unless an external provider had more accurate figures such as West Mercia Energy for gas – 5.8% and electricity –7.2%, and business rates 0%.

The pay award was agreed nationally by the unions but no future indication was given as it was only the current year that had been agreed; the general estimate of 3% was to be included.

Capital projects and use of reserves was to reduce balances and investment returns compared to likely forecast.

(ii) Interest rates

The Bank of England base rate appeared to have peaked at 5.25% and after two reductions was 4.75%. Whilst further reductions in 2025 were expected, the Bank of England had indicated that it would be gradual to make sure inflation stayed closer to its target.

Bond yields were decreasing, and a lower rate should be expected. This was factored in and applied to investment returns.

(iii) Tax base calculations

The tax base for 2025/26, if ratified by Shropshire Council Cabinet on 4th December 2024, would increase from 26,648.74 to 27,453.97 ie a 3% increase. This increase was higher than usual reflecting the changes to the Town Council's boundary following the Electoral Review. The current band D rate is 66.42, and was increased by 4.99% last year ie a £3.16 increase.

Councillor Dean asked at what point did the increase in the tax base impact our services. The RFO explained that additional people following the boundary changes would mean more usage of services. The Town Clerk added that play spaces etc gained had not yet been considered.

Councillor Phillips asked about the duration of bonds. The RFO said that they were for a six-month period and were not greatly impacted by the reduction in the interest rate and was restricted by the maximum period of duration. There were a number of bonds held and as one matures another is taken out, depending on needs and cashflow.

(ii) Proposed Fees & Charges

The Bank of England had an inflation target of 2% and this had been applied to the Town Council's income sources allowing for rounding with the following exceptions:

- Small decrease of Major events and small increase in Minor events - overall no impact. Tightening up of days allowed for set up and break of events and penalty.

- Non-operating day for funfairs set in fees and charges at rate to eventually equal 50% of daily rate and 2 days allowed for both setup and break.

The RFO added that taking payments was made easier with the addition of the online payment facility on the Town Council's website.

Councillor Phillips enquired why the fishing permit fees remained unchanged. It was noted that Shrewsbury Town Fisheries set the fees for fishing. It was reforming a new club and fees were to be in line with fiscal year Angling Fees appropriate to Fisheries owned by Shrewsbury Town Council.

Councillor Wilson approved limiting to set-up time of events in the Quarry and added that the new Communications Officer, when appointed, would be able to raise more public awareness of, for example, Bandstand hire. He queried the fees set for bowling. The RFO said that all the licences had lapsed in the past 4 years and that therefore the fee increase was 2% - he said that a review could be undertaken to see if the charges were still appropriate.

(iv) Revenue expenditure items from committees/members for consideration into budget preparations

The RFO reported that these items were in process and that there were plenty of options put forward.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) **That general principles implications be noted and agreed, and applied to forecast and budget.**
- (ii) **That Fees & Charges be approved.**

56/24 INTERNAL AUDITOR

The report of the Internal Auditor was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The report followed the first of three visits for 2024/25. The next report was due in February.

The RFO referred members to the Review of Income in the Report. Following a review of the Markets in 2023/24, it was found that records relating to stall holders needed reorganisation. The auditor noted that he was pleased with the work done in this area by the Commercial, Markets & Events Manager.

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Auditor's Interim Report for the 2024/25 financial year be noted.

57/24 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

A report on the Youth Service and its recent activities was circulated prior to the meeting together with the minutes of the Youth Council Working Group of 30th September 2024. The Youth & Community Manager drew particular note to the following:

- There was an increase in numbers attending at The Lodge since the re-opening of the Shropshire Youth HQ where there were now 2 groups running at maximum capacity. This was a brand new cohort of youngsters. The new partnership with the Hive delivering music activities during these sessions focusing on combating antisocial behaviour had been well received. There were a number of trips and Christmas-based activities planned for the coming weeks.
- The football and tennis sessions held at Monkmoor Recreational Ground, supported by Shrewsbury Town Football Club coaches, had been hampered recently by snow and ice which caused the Astro pitch to be closed for a time. It was hoped that numbers would start to pick-up again.
- There was still no news of further HAF funding for 2025.
- The Alternative Curriculum (AC) delivery continued this term; all participants were from Shrewsbury Academy.
- The Youth Council had invited the new Shrewsbury MP, Julia Buckley, to visit and meet its members but she was very busy so this was likely to take place after January 2025.

The last Youth Council meeting, including training, was held on 28th November 2024 and the Town Clerk had attended. A Youth Strategy was being drafted.

The Town Clerk reported that the meeting had been very positive and she thanked members who had attended. The Youth Council members were very engaged and had put forward sensible ideas which would inform the Council's Visioning and Strategy. She was keen to capture their enthusiasm and to structure a budget for their use.

The Youth & Community Manager said that some of their thoughts about how the youngsters felt about their community were poignant. Many often stayed at home rather than go out for personal safety reasons. He felt that some work needed to be done around this issue and that it was probably more about perception than the reality. Discussion took place about the new Riverside Park and how it was likely to be used by them. The Town Clerk added that Youth Council members were quite focussed on safety: they wanted better walking and cycle lanes (segregated). They prioritised opportunities for socialisation and improving their wellbeing. However, they also expressed an interest in heritage, nature and climate change, and what these issues meant to them.

Councillor Dartnall asked if there was anything from the meeting that could be taken to the Riverside Development Group. The Town Clerk said she was looking at ways they could be a stakeholder in this project.

The Town Clerk said that it was important to develop a strategy for youth. The introduction of VAT on private sector schooling was to be cascaded to youth schemes and help fund a national strategy and it was hoped this might provide opportunities to access central Government funding for youth initiatives.

Councillor Addams said that a vacancy on the Youth Council had arisen and that a member would be elected from Keystone Academy which would help ensure that all aspects of the youth in Shrewsbury were represented.

Councillor Mosley asked why all those involved in A/C were from Shrewsbury Academy. The Youth & Community Manager explained that children had come from other schools when the service was free of charge but that they had now developed their own A/C provision.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

58/24 TENDER WORK

A report on tendering activity and details on tender progress were circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Projects Manager said that it had been a busy time and that several of the larger projects were being finished off.

Councillor Wilson congratulated the Projects Manager for the new Christmas lights this year, especially on Market Street. He had seen some good photos on social media. The Projects Manager said he would pass the Councillor's comments onto the contractor.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Councillor Green left the meeting.

59/24 MARKETS UPDATE

The Markets Update was circulated prior to the meeting. The Commercial, Markets and Events Manager reported that, as the festive period approached, it was very pleasing to report that the Indoor market continued to operate with 100% occupancy of regular traders and with no rental arrears.

Enquiries from potential new stall holders and from existing traders looking to expand or diversify continued. There was also significant interest from casual traders wanting to sell Christmas goods on a temporary basis but that unfortunately the Market Hall was not currently able to accommodate this.

The level of demand for trading space suggested a very healthy position for the market, and demonstrated that there was further potential should additional space become available either permanently or temporarily.

The market hosted another 'late night event' on Saturday 2nd November which provided the cafes, restaurants, and bars with a timely boost in takings; no issues were reported. The final late-night date was scheduled for Saturday 7th December and was set to be very busy.

Most traders were open until 8.30pm on the night of the Christmas Lights Switch-On where the 'Winter Warmer' event included a collaboration with Shrewsbury Food Hub and the slow food chef 'The Hungry Guy'. The sheer volume of people, however, created a few logistical issues which needed to be addressed for similar events. A second 'Winter Warmer' event was to take place on the night of 'Carols in the Square' (18th December).

Another new addition to the market was the recent launch of a free bike delivery scheme run by volunteers using one of the E-bikes provided by the Town Council. The Deputy Mayor had attended a publicity event for the initiative. The service had received positive comments.

The Commercial, Markets and Events Manager added that progress was being made on replacing the market stall canopies. A supplier had been identified and an installation date would soon be forthcoming.

Councillor Wilson asked if the market would be much impacted by the changes to NI contributions. The RFO said that stalls were mostly owner-managed businesses and whose finances should fall below the thresholds for this to be of concern.

Councillor Wilson asked how the new Shropshire Council management was working. The Commercial, Markets and Events Manager said that there had been no negative feedback so far. In relation to this, Councillor Wilson asked whether there would be any music played in the Market this Christmas. Unfortunately, Shropshire Council was not covering the cost of a licence to play music over the PA system but that individual traders could play music on their stalls.

Sunday Market

The Commercial, Markets and Events Manager reported that a preferred operator had been identified for taking over the Sunday Market from 15th December 2024 – Community Spaces Ltd. They had a good team and there was confidence in the direction that the organisation wanted to take the market ie to focus on markets.

Councillor Vasmer welcomed the move away from car boot sales but was disappointed with the site's terrible appearance. This had been discussed with Community Space Ltd and it would be working collaboratively with local businesses on this. It was noted that the toilets were often locked and that Shropshire Council was not maintaining the site on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Councillor Green re-joined the meeting.

60/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

An update on the Capital Programme was circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk updated members as follows:

- Castlewalk Nature Trail was complete. Some ponding areas on the footpath were to be levelled out.
- The Beaver Compound was complete and was awaiting sign-off with DEFRA which would allow the beavers to be introduced. A Steering Group Meeting, consisting of two Councillors (Addams & Phillips) and two Trustees from the Wildlife Trust, took place.
- Dana Footpath – Estates had been contacted re progress on the lease. This had stalled somewhat due to the question as to whether Estates had the £10k in the budget required for payment of the Lease. The Town Clerk asked if this was something that the Town Council might pay for to allow the works to progress. She was in receipt of a fee note for submission of Listed Building Consent and associated

Heritage Impact Assessments from Arrol & Snell who undertook the Castle Conservation Management Plan so the works were in the best position to proceed. This was £9266.67. The Town Council were happy to proceed.

Councillor Mosley said he very much wanted these works to proceed as they were so overdue. He noted that the Shropshire Horticultural Society had agreed and provided the terms to provide an access footpath across the Castle forecourt. There was one outstanding issue remaining that still needed to be resolved with the owner of the existing footpath and surrounding land. Councillor Mosley proposed that the payment for the lease be made by the Town Council in order to progress the works, especially while Shropshire Council were in financial difficulty. This was to be included in the budget.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the update of the Capital Programme be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Town Council budgets for any lease costs and professional fees in relation to the Dana Footpath Project.**

61/24 DITHERINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillor Dartnall left the meeting.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had entered into an agreement with the Marches Academy charitable arm, 4 All Foundation, to develop a Community Hub at Ditherington Community Centre. This was proving successful and patronage had increased. However, now that the existing Agreement had come to an end the Trust wanted to enter into a longer agreement of 10 years, the details of which were in the Town Clerk's report together with various capital works required to increase its usage further. The recommendations in the report related to the extension of the Agreement and the provision of a budget for necessary improvements. The Town Council would still pay for some running costs eg non-domestic rates and utilities.

Councillor Dartnall re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Wilson agreed that, given 4 All Foundation had already been given a 3-year period, a 10 year Agreement would provide certainty and make it easier to plan ahead.

Councillor Mosley said that the toilets also needed refurbishing and expressed concern about the ongoing costs of maintenance and utilities. The RFO said that these costs amounted to a few thousand but once the building was improved and if it was being well-managed then there should be a reduction in expenditure.

Councillor Addams said that expenditure on this community facility was well spent and allowed ownership of the area for local residents. The Youth & Community Manager added that there was a youth club running on Wednesday evenings and a boxing club. There was also a market on a Saturday and a European café. The Centre had a permanent member of staff working in the building in the mornings.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) **That the Town Council reaffirms its support for 4 All Foundation developing Ditherington Community Centre as a Community Hub;**

- (ii) **That the Town Clerk agrees the term of a 10-year SLA with 4 All Foundation;**
- (iii) **That the proposed works as detailed in the Report be added to the Capital Plan.**

62/24 RIVERSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE AMENDMENTS

Prior to the meeting, documents were circulated relating to the issuing of a Notice B in relation to the submission of an application to amend Condition 2 of Application 23/05402/FUL (part of which is owned by the Town Council) for the development of the Riverside Shopping Centre to allow for the construction of work on podiums to be funded by the Levelling Up Funding Award.

Councillor Mosley asked if this was notice from Shropshire Council in relation to the land belonging to the Town Council that was to form part of the Riverside Development. The Town Clerk replied that it was and that she would deal with the transfer of this parcel of land under agenda item 64/24 below.

RESOLVED:

That the Amendment to Condition 2 of Application 23/05402/FUL be noted.

63/24 SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE

A weblink to the Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service's (SFRS) Consultation on the proposed Community Risk Management Plan was circulated prior to the meeting and the Town Council's response was required.

The Town Clerk reported that every 4 years the SFRS set out its Community Risk Management Plan based upon the following three key areas:

- Risk Demographics – the make-up of the communities it serves and their risk factors eg ageing population
- Emerging Risks – three key risks identified were flooding, wildfires and battery storage units
- Service Risks – these included increased urbanisation, the Grenfell Inquiry, new Working at Height regulations and mineshafts in Telford

To meet these key areas, SFRS had identified 7 proposals as follows:

1. Innovative Use of Technology – aligning with the National Fire Chief Council methodology on dealing with dwelling fires; also looking at research and quality assurance evaluation.
2. Climate & Environmental Impacts – strengthening water rescue, enhanced water safety equipment & training, and developing a plan for moving water.
3. Combatting increased risk of flooding in Shrewsbury – relocation of an appliance to the west of town (Kingsland is the best location) in the event of Shrewsbury Town Centre being cut off.
4. Operational Excellence – various but, in particular upskilling teams.
5. Operational Excellence – specialist training on battery storage, electric vehicles and solar farms (there was more demand recently in these areas).
6. Operational Excellence – standards for call handling and mobilisation times.

7. Operational Excellence – review strategic aerial provision – the two platform tenders were coming towards the end of their shelf-life.

The Town Clerk asked members if they wanted to comment on these proposals. Councillor Mosley queried why the rescue boat for river safety in Shrewsbury was stored in Baschurch and the Town Clerk said she would investigate.

Councillor Wilson said that Shropshire had a higher incident rate of road traffic collisions than any other county and asked if there was any influence the SFRS can exert on Shropshire Council to look at speed restrictions: the rate of accidents had been shown to fall significantly when speeds were reduced.

RESOLVED:

That the SFRS Community Risk Management Plan be supported.

64/24 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Prior to this meeting the Town Clerk's Report on the Horticultural Service Level Agreement was circulated to all members together with Shropshire Council's Grounds Maintenance Service Delegation to Shrewsbury Town Council and Appendix 1 Site Schedule.

The Town Clerk said that her Report attempted to set out the current discussions about the SLA: much of the report was predicated on the fact that Shropshire Council's Cabinet was to meet on Wednesday to consider a formal delegation of services to the Town Council subject to detail at a later date. The Town Clerk had met with key staff on 2nd December so they were aware of the Town Council's budget timescales and that specification discussions must take place within that timescale. Members were asked to note from the report that Shropshire Council wished to remove the Golf Course from the Agreement as they believed it would be better marketed and promoted if there was better assurance on service standards. Despite arguing for the retention of this facility, Shropshire Council remained adamant that it was to be taken within the wider Kier contract. Further meetings were scheduled for next week to discuss detail.

The Town Clerk added that discussions with Estates re land matters (eg Monkmoor Shorncliffe Drive recreation grounds) were also included in her Report. She reported that:

- Monkmoor and Shorncliffe Drive recreation grounds were to be transferred to the Town Council so that long-term work on these facilities can be considered.
- Community asset transfer of The Grange Centre to the Town Council was to take place – the former secondary school on the same site would have to be worked around.
- The new Roushill Park was to be managed by the Town Council as a recreation facility.
- Another asset transfer would be The Hive in order to maintain continuity.

The Town Clerk had mentioned registering the Golf Course as an asset of community value and asked Shropshire Council for it to be transferred to the Town Council. When considering whether the Town Council's maintenance of the Golf Course was important, Councillor Dartnall said that it was important to the community, not just as a sporting facility but for walking etc. Councillor Wilson also expressed the view that the Golf Course should form

part of the Grounds Maintenance Service Delegation. The Town Clerk promised to write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Shropshire Council before the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday to agree the Delegation but express disappointment that the Golf Course was not included and to request that a community asset transfer be considered.

Councillors Mosley and Wilson, the Town Clerk and the RFO had met with the Chief Executive. Shropshire Council repudiated any suggestion of near bankruptcy and made no offer or any services that it would delegate to the Town Council. The next meeting was set for 25th January 2025.

Councillor Wilson expressed surprise at this news given Shropshire Council's financial state. The Town Clerk said the SLA Working Group would offer proposals for the budget and where the Town Council can help in areas where services were diminishing.

Councillor Phillips said that despite the reassurance Shropshire Council had given regarding its finances, he was baffled as to why it could not afford the music licence in the Market Hall.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the Town Council be happy to extend the Horticultural Service Level Agreement by way of delegation of service subject to agreement on funds, timescales & specification.**
- (ii) That Officers and the SLA Working Group continue to pursue resolution in the priority areas as set out above.**
- (iii) That the Town Council agrees to all asset transfers both to and from the Town Council as set out above and the Town Clerk be granted delegated authority to undertake the necessary legal processes.**
- (iv) That members establish any future requests in relation to the maintenance of the Golf Course.**

65/24 ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE & PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Further to previous discussions at Full Council, the Town Clerk circulated her proposed answers to the questionnaire from the Government on Remote Attendance & Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings prior to this meeting. The Deputy Prime Minister had announced that this process should not be for Central Government to dictate how councils ran their meetings and the focus of this kind of consultation was whether there needed to be any limitations.

With regard to Full Council the Town Council's default seemed to continue to hold face to face meetings but that allowed councillors, who were unable to attend be it for health or care arrangements, to still take part. Council also took the view that some meetings might be best placed being virtual. With this in mind, the Town Clerk answered the questions on that basis.

Councillors Wilson and Phillips supported the Town Clerk's response and agreed that it should be up to local councils to decide. Councillor Addams agreed that being able to hold hybrid meetings was a positive way forward. Councillor Mosley added that work commitments, ageing members and working people be added to the list of reasons for hybrid meetings in order to increase diversity.

RESOLVED:

That the answers put forward by the Town Clerk to the questionnaire on Enabling Remote Attendance & Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings forms the basis of the Town Council's response to Government's consultation.

66/24 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.

67/24 GREENFIELDS RECREATION GROUND

An update was provided by Councillor Mosley in relation to previous legal disputes. These had now been resolved.

68/24 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Councillors and all staff involved in the meeting.