

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE, 7 ST JOHNS HILL
ON 2 OCTOBER 2024

PRESENT

Councillors Alan Mosley (Chair), Bernie Bentick, Julian Dean & Pam Moseley
Staff Adam Clifford, Andy Hall, Sally Nicholson and Ian Thorpe

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Stuart Farmer (Acting Operations Manager) Danny Powell (Acting Operations Manager) and Andy Watkin (Head of Resources)

01/24 NOTIFICATION OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

In line with Terms of Reference the Chairmanship switched between Councillors and Staff. This municipal year it was the turn of staff to nominate a Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Andy Hall be the Chairman of the Joint Consultative Committee for the following municipal year.

Andy accepted the Chairmanship. He would make himself available staff groups to ensure that any matters they wished to refer to this Committee would be presented in the best possible manner.

02/24 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

That apologies be accepted from Mike Pugh and Andy Davies.

03/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Those twin-hatted Councillors declared an interest in Shropshire Council.

04/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Notes of the meeting held on 10 April 2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 10 April be agreed as a correct record.

05/24 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Visioning

It was reported that a Working Group involving 2 Labour, 2 Liberals, 1 Conservative and 1 Green had been established to progress the Corporate Plan. The Youth Council would also be involved in the visioning work to reflect the views of young people.

(ii) Union Recognition

The Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk had regularly met with Unison with a view to determining a Unison Recognition Agreement. Changes were being made to a draft agreement which reflected a relationship between Unison and a principal authority. This would be presented at a later date.

06/24 ITEMS RAISED BY THE COUNCIL

Draft HR Policies:

- a. Absence Management Policy 2024
- b. Adoption Leave Policy 2024
- c. Alcohol & Drugs at Work Policy 2024
- d. Equal Opportunities Policy 2024
- e. Equality and Diversity Policy 2024

The Committee reviewed a raft of new HR Policies. These had been circulated to the workforce for review ahead of agreement at the JCC, then Personnel Committee review ahead of approval by Full Council. The Committee suggested amendments to a number of policies; these would be considered prior to submission to the Personnel Committee.

07/24 ITEMS RAISED FROM STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

(i) SLA update

Both Senior Officers and Members gave an update on progress in discussing the extension of the SLA scheduled to finish on 31st March 2025. The Council had already agreed to reduce the SLA by £250k to support budget cuts. The recently established SLA Working Group was looking at ways the Town Council could also take on other services. CCTV maintenance was also being looked at.

(ii) Deputy Town Clerk's position (recruitment and interim cover)

It was reported that the Deputy Town Clerk had resigned from her post to become the Office Manager to the MP. The recruitment process had begun but it was unlikely that the post would be filled until the New Year. The Town Clerk and RFO would take on some of the key responsibilities and direct reports had been placed under other staff.

(iii) Pay Award

It was reported that the pay agreement had not been concluded. Unions were balloting. This was a de-regulated ballot which met that if certain locations were more in favour of industrial action than others, there could be localised action.

08/24 NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 22 January 2025