

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
NEURODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP  
LIVESEY HOUSE  
18 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Present** – Councillors Elisabeth Addams, Julian Dean (Chair), Chris Lemon & Kevin Pardy.

**In attendance** – Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

**07/24 APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**08/24 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Those twin-hatted Councillors declared an interest as Shropshire Council in the event matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with the unitary council were discussed.

**09/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Neurodiversity Working Group meeting held on 17 June were circulated and presented as read.

**AGREED – That the Minutes of the Neurodiversity Meeting held on 17 June 2024 were a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**10/24 MATTERS ARISING**

The Town Clerk updated the Working Group on actions from that meeting.

- Investigate the use of NERDY café as a venue for future meetings (JD) – Councillor Dean would visit the café in person.
- Investigate the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network and how it might support the Town Council's agenda (HB) – Town Clerk reported that CCIN was happy to support networking with others. The Town Clerk also had access to the Larger Town Clerks Network and she would enquire whether there is the potential of developing a specific Neurodiversity network amongst the sector
- Devise a series of questions for each of the following groups and circulate them amongst the working group members for input and comment: Parents and teachers, BID members, Shropshire Autism Hub, Parental Education Growth Support (PEGS) (AS) – The Deputy Town Clerk had circulated sample questions for the Group's consideration. These were subsequently considered and amended (with Councillor Dean agreeing to circulate and amended list) with a view to using Survey Monkey to create electronic surveys and the following would be responsible for distribution:
  - BID – Town Clerk

- Parents & Teachers – Councillor Addams
  - Shropshire Autism Hub – Councillor Addams
  - Parental Education Growth Support – Steve Gray
- Investigate training provision (AS) – The Deputy Town Clerk had found a course. The next available date was 6<sup>th</sup> November and Councillors Dean & Lemon were keen to attend. The Town Clerk would look at dates with a view to hosting the course presentation in the Council Meeting Room.

## 11/24 FUTURE ACTIONS

The Group began to explore avenues that the Town Council might follow to promote neurodiversity both within the organisation but to the wider public.

- **Possible Town Council Network** – HB to explore an appetite for other Town Councils to work more collaboratively.
- **Parent Opening Doors (Telford)** – EA to circulate a link to all Working Group members.
- **Existing Resources** – EA to investigate whether there are any existing resources that the Town Council could use.
- **Town Council Website** – HB to arrange for a Neurodiversity page to be added to the website.
- **Neurodiversity Logo** – EA to run a logo competition with her students.

## 12/24 NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled later in the year once the survey had been circulated.