

Minutes of the Finance, Asset & Resources Committee held on Thursday 13th November 2025.

PRESENT: Chair: Cllr G Hutchinson

Town Councillors: Cllr L Woodbridge, P Jones, A Wignall, G Elner, J Howard, M Hancock and P Goulbourne

Town Clerk & RFO: Jo Butterworth.

FAR 11/25/01 **To receive apologies and reasons for absence.**

It was agreed that to approve apologies from Cllr N Proffitt due to work commitments.

FAR 11/25/02 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

None disclosed.

FAR 11/25/03 **Grant Dispensations.**

None requested.

FAR 11/25/04 **Minutes.**

It was proposed by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and,

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th October 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

FAR 11/25/05 **2025/2026 Priorities.** The delivery of the following priorities for 2026/2027 were considered.

Electricity to the Wharf.

It was felt that because most hirers bring their own generators when hiring the square and given the water issues underground it was agreed not to investigate this matter further.

Blue Green Algae at The Mere. Ellesmere Town Council has agreed for Shropshire Council to use their profits from the Boathouse for this project.

Look at making repairs to the stage/bandstand at the Mere so that it can be used for events.

Cllr Elner is currently investigating the repairs required to stage/bandstand and associated costs. It may be possible to apply for the Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) in April 2026 to help towards the costs, but it will only cover part of the costs, some additional funding would need to be considered when looking at the budget. The EMG is only £750 and would need to be match funded.

Tourist walks with QR information.

Town Walks guided by QR information directing people to points of historic interest were identified as a priority. Cllr P Jones agreed to investigate this further.

Traders Carpark & Garage Asset Transfer from Shropshire Council.

The Clerk reported that she is waiting to hear back from Shropshire Council to see if they would consider an asset transfer of these areas, she will chase them for a response.

FAR 11/25/06 **New Wharf Square.**

Hire charges for the area were discussed.

It was moved by Cllr P Jones, seconded by L Woodbridge and

RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Council that the following charges for the area are charged from 1st April 2026.

New Wharf Square	Daily Charge
Ellesmere based Charitable Organisations/Council Departments	£50 per day £250 per week
Community Events	£80 per day £400 per week
National or Regional Charities	£80 per day £400 per week
Commercial Enterprises	£100 per day £500 per week
Use by Armed Forces	No charge

FAR 11/25/07

Mayoral Chain.

The Clerk showed members different design options and prices. Members agreed that their preferred design of those shown was the C70 Chain of Office from a company called Vaughans at a cost of £3,064.60 (exc VAT), with a cost of £363.00 for a velvet collar and £606.38 (exc VAT) for a customised box which would be a total of £4,033.98.

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

RESOLVED: to recommend to full council that chain C70 be the preferred choice of the new Chain of Office, with a velvet backing and customised case.

The colour of the velvet backing was discussed the Town's colour of blue was suggested, some members felt that the backing should be black.

It was moved by Cllr P Jones that the velvet backing colour should be blue, this was seconded by Cllr G Elner.

There were 4 votes for and 4 votes against, the Chair used his casting vote and

RESOLVED: to recommend to full Council that the velvet backing colour should be black.

The Clerk informed members that Shrewsbury Town Council do not engrave their chain; they just put the Mayor's names on their honours board. The question was asked if so many links in the chain would be required and if the cost could be reduced. The Clerk will investigate the costs to bring to Full Council when they consider the recommendation.

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson not to engrave the new chain, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

RESOLVED: that to recommend to full Council that the new chain should note be engraved and the Mayors names added to the Honours Board at the Town Hall.

After the vote, Cllr Wignall asked the Clerk to see whether other Council's in Shropshire engrave their chains.

The meeting closed at 19:58pm

Chair:

Date: