



## Committee and Date

Council

2 March 2023

## COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022**

**In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND**

**10.00 am - 1.30 pm**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

Email: [tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01743 257713

### **Present**

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman), Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Rachel Connolly, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

### **65 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Rob Gittins, John Price, David Minnery, Robert Tindall, Kevin Turley and Mark Williams

### **66 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillor Richard Marshall declared an interest in item 15.2 – Just Stop Oil motion on the grounds of perceived bias as he was the director of a transport company. He stated that he would leave the room and take no part in the debate or vote on the item.

### **67 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

## 68 **Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Rachel Connolly to her first meeting following her election as a councillor for the Bridgnorth west and Tasley Division

### **Chairman's Engagements**

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 22 September 2022, which had been circulated by email.

## 69 **Public Questions**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Mrs Kris Welch and Dr Jamie Russell. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 15th December, 2022, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

## 70 **Report of Returning Officer - Bridgnorth West & Tasley**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Returning Officer, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the report be noted and approved.

## 71 **Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2023/24**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

On being put to a recorded vote with 66 Members voting for, none against and no abstentions as follows:

### **FOR:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bagnall, Bardsley, Barrow, Bentick, Biggins, Bird, Boddington, Broomhall, Buckley, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Connolly, Dartnall, Davenport, Davies, Dean, Elnor, D Evans, J Evans, R Evans, Gill, Green, Halliday, Harris, Hartin, Hignett Houghton, R Huffer, T Huffer, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, Isherwood, M Jones, S Jones, Kerr, Kidd, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Morris, Moseley, Mosley, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Picton,

Potter, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, Wild, Williams, Wilson and Wynn

It was **RESOLVED:**

- a) To approve, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Shropshire Council as it's Council Tax taxbase for the year 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix A, totalling 118,106.08 Band D equivalents.
- b) To note the changes to the Council's localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme in 2023/24. The scheme is attached at Appendix B.
- c) To note the Council Tax Support Scheme amendments detailed in Appendix B have no impact on the taxbase determination.
- d) To note the exclusion of 8,387.51 Band D equivalents from the taxbase as a result of localised Council Tax Support.
- e) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy of 0% in respect of second homes (other than those that retain a 50% discount through regulation as a result of job related protection) and note the inclusion of 712.32 Band D equivalents in the Council Tax taxbase as a result of this discount policy.
- f) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to not award a discount in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties.
- g) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties, of 100% for one month i.e. effectively reinstating the exemption and the resulting exclusion of 68.99 band D equivalents from the taxbase.
- h) To note continuation of the "six week rule" in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties.
- i) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 100% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years (but less than five years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 293.89 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- j) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 200% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years (but less than ten years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 203.77 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.

- k) To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 300% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years and the resulting inclusion of an additional 183.00 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- l) To approve a collection rate for the year 2023/24 of 98.5%.

## 72 **Treasury Strategy 2022/23 – Mid Year Review**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Members agree the Treasury Strategy updates as set out in the report.

## 73 **Annual Scrutiny Report**

The Chairman advised Members that consideration of the Annual Scrutiny report would be deferred to the next meeting

## 74 **Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan – Adoption**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services, Councillor Richard Marshall, and seconded by Councillor Dan Thomas that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

### **RESOLVED**

That Shropshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority 'makes' (i.e. adopts) the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) and brings it into force with immediate effect as part of the Development Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

## 75 **Shropshire Economic Partnership Board**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that recommendation 3.2 be amended to read: -

To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to establish a Shropshire

Economic Partnership Board to drive forward the Economic Growth Strategy, develop and agree the associated Terms of Reference, to include representation from across the county's business sectors, public sector organisations, geographies, the voluntary sector, communities, and the chairs of other local stakeholder groups such as the climate action and nature recovery partnerships in the county. The board should also aim for gender balance.

This was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr

On taking a vote the amendment fell.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council

- a) Approve the establishment of an advisory Shropshire Economic Partnership Board
- b) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to establish a Shropshire Economic Partnership Board to drive forward the Economic Growth Strategy, develop and agree the associated Terms of Reference.
- c) Delegate to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to develop through the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board, produce the Action Plan to support the Economic Growth Strategy to delivery and the appropriate KPI's to support the Economic Growth Strategy and the Healthy Economy priority of the Shropshire Plan

**76 Recruitment of Co-opted Independent Members for the Audit Committee**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the Council consider the approach set out in the report, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources (in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee) to progress recruitment of a co-opted independent person for a term of four years.
- b. That the Council nominate members to a panel who will undertake the shortlisting, carry out interviews and recommend the successful candidate for this role to Council on a date to be confirmed in early 2023.

**77 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report - Finding of Fault with Injustice**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by The Leader, Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

That Members note the content of the LGSCO report attached at Appendix A and the actions taken to date, to comply in full with the LGSCO's recommendations.

**78 Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Julia Buckley proposed that the number of Conservative seats on the Pensions Committee be reduced from 3 to 2, and that the number of Labour seats increase from 0 to 1.

This was seconded by Councillor Tony Parsons

On taking a vote the amendment fell.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2021/22 municipal year as a consequence of the change in group membership as follows:
  - a) That the composition and revised allocation of seats on its committees and other bodies as detailed in the report be approved.
  - b) That the Leader of the Conservative Group provides notification of which of its members will be removed from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
  - c) That the Leader of the Independent Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Southern Planning Committee.
  - d) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Housing Supervisory Board.

2. That the following changes to committee membership be noted:

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Richard Huffer as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Heather Kidd as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to replace Councillor Richard Marshall as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Nat Green to replace Councillor Alex Wagner as a member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Alex Wagner to replace Councillor Nat Green as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

## 79 Motions

The following motion was received from Councillor Rob Wilson supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

### Vision Zero

This Council notes:

1. In 2021, 16 people were killed in road traffic collisions in the Shropshire Council area.
2. This statistic has remained virtually unchanged over the past 10 years (2012: 17, 2013: 18, 2014: 15, 2015: 13, 2016: 17, 2017: 18, 2018: 15, 2019: 14, 2020: 11, 2021: 16).
3. In 2021, 121 people were killed or seriously injured in the Shropshire Council area.
4. This statistic has remained virtually unchanged over the past 10 years (2012: 146, 2013: 119, 2014: 140, 2015: 139, 2016: 169, 2017: 174, 2018: 135, 2019: 161, 2020: 123, 2021: 121).
5. In 2004, the World Health Organisation published "World report on road traffic injury prevention". It stated: "Road traffic crashes are predictable and therefore preventable ... the time to act is now. Road users everywhere deserve better and safer road travel."
6. The effect of road traffic collisions include physical, emotional, social and economic effects for everyone involved.
7. The financial cost per fatal casualty is approximately £2,000,000. The financial cost per severely injured casualty is approximately £220,000.
8. This means in financial terms the cost of road collisions in Shropshire was approximately £60,000,000 in 2021.

9. Every 20 minutes someone is killed or seriously injured on UK roads. Much of the reporting around these incidents portrays collisions as unavoidable, obscures the presence of certain actors or omits crucial context as to why crashes happen and what we can do to prevent them.

10. The Road Collision Reporting Guidelines (<https://www.rc-rg.com/guidelines>) were produced in consultation with road safety, legal, media and policing organisations and individuals, to supplement professional codes of conduct and support the highest standards of reporting in broadcast, print and online.

11. They encourage media, among other things, to avoid using the word “accident” – “crash” or “collision” not carrying the same association with chance – and to acknowledge the role of motorists, with many outlets for instance continuing to carry headlines such as “car crashes into tree.”

12. In September 2022 it was announced that the Department for Transport will use “collision” instead of “accident”

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2021/changes-to-road-casualty-statistics-following-user-feedback>).

13. Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Cox is the National lead for fatal collision investigation reporting to the National Police Chiefs Council and was previously the Metropolitan Police’s lead for Vision Zero. He has been a leading voice in the need to change how we view the problems we face.

14. Vision Zero is a set of principles and policies aimed at eliminating serious injuries and fatalities involving road traffic. It shifts responsibility for crashes from road users to the designers of the road system – if one occurs, it is up to authorities to ensure that it does not happen again.

15. Traditional approaches to road safety assume that people can be taught, persuaded or compelled to behave safely. A Safe System approach is different. It accepts that while road-users should behave safely and legally, people do sometimes make mistakes, and that some mistakes lead to crashes. This premise helps us to see more clearly what needs to be done:

- a. prevent mistakes happening in the first place.
- b. ensure that any mistakes that do happen don’t end in fatal or serious injury.

16. In 1997, the Swedish Parliament adopted a new long-term goal and strategy for road safety, Vision Zero. The goal is that no one should be killed or seriously injured through a road accident. Vision Zero is an ethical stance stating that it is not acceptable for human mistakes to have fatal consequences. It can be viewed as a paradigm shift, where the ultimate responsibility for road safety is shifted from the individual road-user to those who design the transport system, for example, road management bodies, vehicle manufacturers, legislators, commercial transport operators, the police authority and others. The responsibility of the road-user is to comply with laws and regulations.

(<https://www.roadsafetysweden.com/about-the-conference/vision-zero---no-fatalities-or-serious-injuries-through-road-accidents/#:~:text=In%201997%2C%20the%20Swedish%20Parliament,mistake%20to%20have%20fatal%20consequences.>)

17. In 2015, the City of Oslo, Norway, made a commitment after years of rising transportation injuries to reduce car traffic and prioritize the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and the environment. The government of Norway has made a strong commitment to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on their



roadways nationally and has worked towards this vision for nearly two decades. From 2010-2019, Oslo had an average of five to seven traffic fatalities a year. The risk of fatal or serious road traffic injuries, on a trip-by-trip basis, has fallen 47% for cyclists, 41% for pedestrians and 32% for drivers between 2014 and 2018. The average number per 1 million trips for cyclists was reduced from 3.2 to 1.7, pedestrians from 0.7 to 0.4, and car occupants from 1.7 to 1.1. Finally, in 2019, Oslo achieved a critical milestone: no vulnerable road users died all year, and only one car driver died. (<https://thecityfix.com/blog/how-oslo-achieved-zero-pedestrian-and-bicycle-fatalities-and-how-others-can-apply-what-worked/>)

18. The Sustainable Safety vision is an optimal approach for improving road safety, originating from the Netherlands. It is a vision that is shared by many road safety professionals. A sustainably safe road traffic system prevents road deaths, serious road injuries and permanent injury by systematically reducing the underlying risks of the entire traffic system. Human factors are the primary focus: by starting from the needs, competences, limitations and vulnerability of people, the traffic system can be realistically adapted to achieve maximum safety. (<https://sustainablesafety.nl/>)

19. Transport for London has set a Vision Zero target of 2041.

([https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA\\_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf))

20. Essex County Council has set a Vision Zero target of 2040.

(<https://www.essexhighways.org/news/vision-zero-no-more-deaths-on-essex-roads>)

21. Kent County Council has set a Vision Zero target of 2050.

(<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/road-casualty-reduction-strategy>)

22. In June 2022 Oxfordshire County Council voted to adopt Vision Zero.

([https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA\\_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf))

23. In September 2022 Leeds City Council adopted “Leeds Safe Roads: Vision Zero 2040: Strategy and Action Plan”. It includes specific reference to the Road Collision Reporting Guidelines.

(<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s237614/Vision%20Zero%20Strategy%20Report%20Appendix%202%20120922.pdf>)

This Council believes:

1. The only justifiable target should be that in the longer term no one is killed or seriously injured on the roads in Shropshire.
2. It should adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger that incorporates four key principles:
  - a. Safety: Road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.
  - b. Ethics: Human life and health have highest priority.
  - c. Responsibility: We must all be ready to change to achieve a safe environment on our roads and there is a particular responsibility for change and reduction of danger amongst those whose modes of travel create the highest levels of risk.

- d. Active travel: A Vision Zero approach must enable healthy, clean forms of transport such as cycling and walking.
3. That language matters when talking about road collisions. For example we should refer to “road danger reduction” rather than “road safety”.
4. Vision Zero principles will change public perception about road danger, so that death and injury is no longer an inevitable part of our lives as we move around, but something that can be avoided if a serious and sustained effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem.”

This Council resolves:

1. To adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger reduction.
2. To work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change.
3. To set a target date for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Shropshire’s roads and streets.
4. To embed Vision Zero in all relevant Shropshire Council policies, including, but not limited to, LTP4.
5. To adopt the Road Collision Reporting Guidelines in Shropshire Council communications and encourage West Mercia Police and media organisations in Shropshire to do the same. Including but not limited to, using “road danger reduction” instead of “road safety” and assigning agency to those involved in crashes.
6. To instruct officers to bring a paper to Cabinet within 12 months to address how these points will be achieved.

Councillor David Vasmer seconded the motion

By way of amendment Councillor Rosemary Dartnall proposed that point 2 of the resolution be amended to read: -

To work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change, including the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in all residential streets, urban or rural, throughout Shropshire.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Tony Parsons

On being put to a recorded vote with 27 Members voting for, 38 against and no abstentions as follows:

**FOR:**

Councillors Bagnall, Boddington, Buckley, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, T Huffer, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner and Wilson

**AGAINST:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Bentick Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Charmley, Davenport, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Schofield, Thomas, Wild, B Williams and Wynn.

The amendment fell

On being put to a recorded vote with 27 Members voting for, 38 against and no abstentions as follows:

**FOR:**

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, T Huffer, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner and Wilson

**AGAINST:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Davenport, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Schofield, Thomas, Wild, B Williams and Wynn.

The motion fell

On a point of order Councillor R Evans proposed that under paragraph 17.i of the Council Constitution that the meeting proceed to the next business as he felt that the next motion to be discussed did not fall within the remit of the council. This was seconded by Councillor David Vasmer.

On taking a vote the motion was defeated.

*Having declared an interest Councillor Richard Marshall left the meeting and took no part in the debate or voting*

The following motion was received from Councillor Richard Marshall supported by Councillors Garry Burchett, Steve Davenport, Geoff Elner, Hilary Luff and Dan Morris, and was proposed by Councillor Dan Morris

Just Stop Oil Motion

Shropshire Council Notes

1. That the United Kingdom are leading the way on climate change, with 90% of the world's economy covered by net zero targets, a significant increase from just one third before the UK's COP 26 presidency.

2. As a council we are supportive of the UK Government's ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower and is proud of the UK's overall record on cutting greenhouse emissions.
3. We recognise and understand the need to act on the environment but believes that cooperation with the UK Government and our residents is the right way to pursue our objectives.
4. We are concerned with the impact of illegal protests on residents and threats against nationally important infrastructure.
5. We recognise the right in the United Kingdom under our democracy, for peaceful protest. However, we are vehemently against protests that include wilful vandalism, the disruption of individuals attempting to earn a lawful living, the blocking of roads that impedes parents taking their children to hospital for vital lifesaving appointments and in the utterly selfish act of depriving a son attending his own father's funeral by stopping the flow of traffic on the nation's highways.
6. This is an issue that has impact on Shropshire residents and businesses caught up in these protests. Local Shropshire businesses have lost many hours over the past few Months with the disruption. This is at a time when both residents and businesses across Shropshire are already being hit with higher costs and can ill afford the additional costs of unlawful protests.
7. Barclays bank in Shrewsbury were subjected to a disruptive protest in November by an Extinction Rebellion group. Again, created additional inconvenience to the residents of Shropshire.

This council Resolves to:

1. Publicly condemn all illegal protests organised by Just Stop Oil or similar groups.
2. Demand the permanent cessation of all illegal protests and request these groups work constructively with both local and national government to achieve our mutually desired Net Zero Targets.

This was seconded by Councillor Steve Davenport.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that the motion be amended to read

#### Shropshire Council Notes

1. That the recent decision to go ahead with a coal mine in Cumbria – condemned by the governments own advisory body, the Committee on Climate Change; the effective ban on on-shore wind – only partially lifted under pressure this month; the failure to tackle the UKs housing stock, with the leakiest homes in Europe leaving emissions high and driving households in to fuel poverty; the further delay to promised funding for insulation in the Autumn Statement; the failure to provide adequate funding for the decarbonisation of transport, as evidenced by

this council's inability to access adequate funding for buses; the delays to planning laws to ensure net zero carbon building regulations, all demonstrate that the UK has failed to lead the way on climate mitigation and adaptation despite holding the presidency for COP26.

2. As a council we are supportive of the UK Government's ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower .
3. We recognise and understand the need to act on the environment and believe that cooperation with the UK Government and our residents is the right way to pursue our objectives.
4. We are concerned with the impact of increased flooding, heatwaves, deteriorating soil health and threats against nationally important infrastructure from climate breakdown.
5. We recognise the right to peaceful protest. We further recognise that disruptive protests have helped to ensure that issues from women's suffrage to the climate emergency have been brought to wider attention. We call on protesters to be mindful of the impact of their action on the public, but also condemn the attack on the right to protest enshrined in recent and proposed legislation.

This Council Resolves to

:

1. Publicly condemn the increasingly draconian restrictions on the right to protest in the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act and the Public Order Bill.
2. Demand the reversal of the recent decision to go ahead with the Cumbrian coal mine, as a first step towards more effective action on the climate emergency and call on national government to respond positively to the recommendations in the [Local Net Zero Delivery Progress](#) reports published earlier this year by UK100, to which Shropshire Council belongs.

This was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated

On being put to a recorded vote with 34 Members voting for, 7 against and 20 abstentions as follows:

**FOR:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Davenport, Elnor, D Evans, Gill, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Schofield, Wild, B Williams and Wynn.

**AGAINST:**

Councillors Boddington, Dean, J Evans, Hartin, T Huffer, Isherwood and Kerr

**ABSTAIN:**

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Buckley, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Houghton, R Huffer, , Kidd, Moseley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED:**

Shropshire Council Notes

2. That the United Kingdom are leading the way on climate change, with 90% of the world's economy covered by net zero targets, a significant increase from just one third before the UK's COP 26 presidency.
3. As a council we are supportive of the UK Government's ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower and is proud of the UK's overall record on cutting greenhouse emissions.
4. We recognise and understand the need to act on the environment but believes that cooperation with the UK Government and our residents is the right way to pursue our objectives.
5. We are concerned with the impact of illegal protests on residents and threats against nationally important infrastructure.
6. We recognise the right in the United Kingdom under our democracy, for peaceful protest. However, we are vehemently against protests that include wilful vandalism, the disruption of individuals attempting to earn a lawful living, the blocking of roads that impedes parents taking their children to hospital for vital lifesaving appointments and in the utterly selfish act of depriving a son attending his own father's funeral by stopping the flow of traffic on the nation's highways.
7. This is an issue that has impact on Shropshire residents and businesses caught up in these protests. Local Shropshire businesses have lost many hours over the past few Months with the disruption. This is at a time when both residents and businesses across Shropshire are already being hit with higher costs and can ill afford the additional costs of unlawful protests.
8. Barclays bank in Shrewsbury were subjected to a disruptive protest in November by an Extinction Rebellion group. Again, created additional inconvenience to the residents of Shropshire.

That this council resolves to:

1. Publicly condemn all illegal protests organised by Just Stop Oil or similar groups.

2. Demand the permanent cessation of all illegal protests and request these groups work constructively with both local and national government to achieve our mutually desired Net Zero Targets.

The following motion had been received from Councillor David Vasmer and was supported by Liberal Democrat Group

Council is extremely concerned by the recently announced cuts to BBC local radio programming.

The changes will cut local programming after 2pm – with most shows after this point being broader regional or national broadcasts.

Council notes the announcement has met fierce criticism from across the political spectrum.

BBC Radio Shropshire is a vital service. It helps residents stay connected to their local community, providing local news, culture, sport and weather updates, and gives residents an opportunity to have their say and participate in local debates through phone-ins. BBC Local Radio does this in a unique way that commercial radio cannot quite match.

In the last couple of years the station was able to help spread important information and give a voice to many people isolated by the pandemic and others traumatised by floods. During the cost of living crisis local radio will play a similarly crucial role in spreading information about support services, warm banks and a number of other important lifelines for residents. It is particularly important for people who do not have access to the internet.

BBC local radio also does a great job of holding decision makers to account – both local and national – as was demonstrated by the round of local interviews conducted with former Prime Minister Liz Truss on 29 September 2022.

Council recognises the BBC is being forced into cuts by successive Government freezes to the license fee and the withdrawal of funding for free licenses for over 75's.

Council calls on the Government to fund the BBC so it can continue to deliver a full schedule of local radio programming across the UK – in addition to it's planned expansion of digital radio services

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, to express our dismay at these proposed cuts to BBC local radio and to demand that the Government find a solution to cover the BBC's predicted £295 million funding shortfall by 2027.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC to celebrate the irreplaceable local service Radio Shropshire provides and stresses our desire for it's local programming to be protected and retained.

This was seconded by Councillor Heather Kidd

By way of amendment the Leader, Councillor Picton proposed that the motion be amended to read:

Council is extremely concerned by the recently announced cuts to BBC local radio programming. The changes will cut local programming after 2pm – with most shows after this point being broader regional or national broadcasts.

Council notes the announcement has met fierce criticism from across the political spectrum.

BBC Radio Shropshire is a vital service. It helps residents stay connected to their local community, providing local news, culture, sport and weather updates, and gives residents an opportunity to have their say and participate in local debates through phone-ins. BBC Local Radio does this in a unique way that commercial radio cannot quite match.

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Council instructs the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, to express our concern at these proposed cuts to BBC local radio and to ask that the Government work with the BBC to find a solution to cover the BBC's predicted £295 million funding shortfall by 2027.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC to celebrate the irreplaceable local service Radio Shropshire provides and stresses our desire for its local programming to be protected and retained.

Councillor Vasmer accepted the amendment and on taking a vote it was **RESOLVED**

That Council is extremely concerned by the recently announced cuts to BBC local radio programming. The changes will cut local programming after 2pm – with most shows after this point being broader regional or national broadcasts.

That Council notes the announcement has met fierce criticism from across the political spectrum. BBC Radio Shropshire is a vital service. It helps residents stay connected to their local community, providing local news, culture, sport and weather updates, and gives residents an opportunity to have their say and participate in local debates through phone-ins. BBC Local Radio does this in a unique way that commercial radio cannot quite match.

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Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC to celebrate the irreplaceable local service Radio Shropshire provides and stresses our desire for it's local programming to be protected and retained.

The following motion had been received from Councillor Julia Evans and was supported by the Green Group

#### Ambulance Hub Move and Road Safety

Council notes:

In Radbrook and Meole Brace, there are Road Safety Groups trying to make Active Travel safer to all

There are two Secondary Schools and one Primary School on the Ambulance main routes to the bypass and urban routes through Shrewsbury. Due to this, no speed reduction measures can be considered along these roads.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service actively looking for another site for their Shrewsbury Hub and have made it their number 1 estates priority. This needs to be a property with enough space for parking and active travel for staff.

We further note:

The last project undertaken for a new Ambulance Hub has taken 5 years, so speed is of the essence.

Council welcomes:

A dialogue between the estates Directors in WMAS with Council Officers, as announced at the last Radbrook Road Safety Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Council urges portfolio holders to:

1. Work towards a new Ambulance Hub site as quickly as possible, in order to facilitate much needed road safety improvements in residential areas.

2. Investigate offering alternatives within the councils assets, in particular at Weeping Cross.
3. Assist a teaching programme between schools and the Ambulance Service.
4. Assist WMAS with public information on how to drive and pull over when blue lights are seen.
5. Negotiate with them about incorporating a local Shropshire Ambulance Control within the new Hub

This was seconded by Councillor Bernie Bentick

By way of amendment The Leader Council Picton proposed that the final part of the motion be amended to read

Council urges portfolio holders to:

1. Work with WMAS to bring forward a new Ambulance Hub site.
2. Work with WMAS to investigate site alternatives within the council's assets and through the One Public Estate programme which Shropshire Council leads.
3. Encourage WMAS to incorporate a local Shropshire Ambulance Control within the new Hub.
4. Utilise the Council's Communication Channels to assist WMAS with public information on driving safely around blue light vehicles.
5. Upon vacation of the new Ambulance Hub install agreed road safety improvements on Longden Road.

Councillor J Evans accepted the amendment and on taking a vote it was **RESOLVED:**

That Council notes:

In Radbrook and Meole Brace, there are Road Safety Groups trying to make Active Travel safer to all

There are two Secondary Schools and one Primary School on the Ambulance main routes to the bypass and urban routes through Shrewsbury. Due to this, no speed reduction measures can be considered along these roads.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service actively looking for another site for their Shrewsbury Hub and have made it their number 1 estates priority. This needs to be a property with enough space for parking and active travel for staff.

We further note:

The last project undertaken for a new Ambulance Hub has taken 5 years, so speed is of the essence.

Council welcomes:

A dialogue between the estates Directors in WMAS with Council Officers, as announced at the last Radbrook Road Safety Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Council urges portfolio holders to:

1. Work with WMAS to bring forward a new Ambulance Hub site.
2. Work with WMAS to investigate site alternatives within the council's assets and through the One Public Estate programme which Shropshire Council leads.
3. Encourage WMAS to incorporate a local Shropshire Ambulance Control within the new Hub.
4. Utilise the Council's Communication Channels to assist WMAS with public information on driving safely around blue light vehicles.
5. Upon vacation of the new Ambulance Hub install agreed road safety improvements on Longden Road.

## 80 Questions from Members

The Chairman advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15. A copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillors Dan Morris and Steve Davenport and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to the Pant-Llanymynech by-pass and the North West Relief Road. By way of supplementary question Councillor Morris commented that a majority of Shropshire businesses supported the NWRR and asked whether the Cabinet would work with local businesses to extol the virtues of the NWRR to the population of Shropshire. The Portfolio Holder advised that Cabinet were in regular dialogue with local businesses regarding the benefits of the NWRR.

Received from Councillor Julian Dean and answered by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport in relation to energy efficiency at the council owned shopping centres. By way of supplementary question Councillor Dean asked the Portfolio Holder whether the use of green leases could be investigated. The Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing advised that he would look into this but could make no commitment until the full implications were known

Received from Councillor Mike Isherwood and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing in relation to prevention of mould in council owned housing stock. By way of supplementary question Councillor Isherwood asked what the Council is doing to support other providers to achieve the same standards as its own. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Council actively worked with all registered landlords in Shropshire, through the Social Housing Forum. He advised that Officers would look into the specific cases he had alluded to.

Received from Councillor Rob Wilson and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to resurfacing of roads, footways and cycleways. By way of supplementary question Councillor Wilson commented that a lot of young people could not take up apprenticeships due to not having cars

and not being able to get to the place of work by other means and that the Place Overview Committee had asked that in future the resurfacing be disaggregated into Highway, footway and cycleway. He asked the Portfolio Holder whether he would support this request. The Portfolio Holder agreed to look into this.

The Chairman advised that an emergency question had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.4(b). A copy of the question and the formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor Nat Green and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to the Council's response to an incident in Shrewsbury. By way of supplementary question Councillor Green asked when the report is done could it be made available at the next Council meeting. The Portfolio Holder agreed to look into this

**81 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:**

That, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item

**82 Exempt Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved, and signed as a correct record.

**83 Planning Enforcement Works in Default – The Brambles, Whitchurch – Case Number 18/06223/ENF**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services, Councillor Richard Marshall, and seconded by Councillor Peggy Mullock that the report of the Assistant Director of Economy and Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

**84 Options for Delivery of Oswestry Innovation Park and Associated Infrastructure**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Joyce Barrow that the exempt report of the Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....