

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem on Thursday 30th June 2016 at 7 p.m.

Present:-Councillors, R Dodd (Mayor), E Towers (Deputy Mayor), P Moyse, C Granger, P Dee, C Mellings, K Bailey, J Murray, M Meakin, P Johnson, C Shingler, P Broomhall, D Boddy and P Glover. Mrs Penny O’Hagan (Town Clerk).

8 members of the public present.

Rev Adams said prayers before the start of the meeting.

26/16 To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
None

27/16 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests.

a) To receive any disclosure of pecuniary interest - Members are 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	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Broomhall	Item 31c Appeal notification 14/03428/OUT Appeal reference: 16/03710/REF	none
Shropshire Councillors Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council’s relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation previously granted to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Towers and Cllr Mellings	Item 35 - Directors of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Councillors allowed to participate but not vote in all discussions regarding this organisation
Cllr Mellings	Item 31 - Travel Claim payment	None

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 – none received.

28/16 Public Participation Time a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards reported the following concerns;

Station Road - The yellow box junction on the road by the level crossing is in need of re painting to aid drivers approaching the crossing.

Armed Forces Day Refreshments – It was suggested that the refreshments for this service should be provided for invited guests after the church organised coffee morning.

511 Bus Service - Mr Edwards reported that he had received many complaints about the bus service being provided by the new contractor which had been unreliable – Councillors responded that details of incidents relating to the bus service should be reported to the Passenger Transport Team of Shropshire Council or the Town Clerk who will forward them on to the appropriate department.

Cllr Mellings reported that an urgent meeting will be held with the service operator and Shropshire Council Passenger Transport team regarding issues raised.

Mrs Burton reported that the pavement on New Street adjacent to the doctor's surgery is obstructed by vegetation. The Clerk was asked to report this to Shropshire Highways.

Mr Hand from Mill Street drew the council's attention to the following issues relating to Mill Street :-

Narrow pavements – Mr Hand was of the opinion that the width of these pavements breach disability discrimination act guidelines as they are too narrow for pedestrians and wheelchair users to pass each other and they are often forced to walk in the road. He suggested that to alleviate the problem the Victorian lamp columns could be removed and that the council could look at options for altering the width of the existing streetlight columns in the pavement.

HGV's – Mr Hand reported that HGV's using the Town were a real problem to residents in the town and wanted to know what the Town Council are going to do about this problem.

Speeding – Mr Hand requested that the 20mph speed limit on Mill Street be enforced and that additional speed limit repeater signs be painted on the road to deter speeding. He also requested that the Town Council develop a community speed watch scheme in the town.

It was agreed that the issues raised by Mr Hand would be debated at the July meeting of the Town Council.

29/16 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of Meeting of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 26th May 2016.
The following amendment was made to the minutes

Item 23/16 Cllr Moyle clarified that he had applied for funding not secured funding.

RESOLVED:- that subject to the aforementioned amendment the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 26th May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

30/16 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

The Clerk was asked for an update with regard to Fothergill Way yellow lines– It was reported that Shropshire Council will be undertaking a new consultation with residents about the installation of yellow lines. In addition to this they would be talking to the school to discuss options to deter students from parking in the road.

RESOLVED:- to note.

31/16 Planning Applications.

a) Planning Applications for consideration

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.30 for 5 minutes for councillors to view the planning applications.

16/02298/FUL: Dunnslea, 14 Tilley Road, Wem, Shrewsbury, SY4 5HA
Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extension.

RESOLVED:-not to comment.

16/02514/FUL: 17 Aston Road, Wem, SY4 5AZ, Proposal: Erection of extension to provide enlarged Dining Room with balcony over.

RESOLVED:-not to comment.

b) To note the recent planning decisions.

The planning decision report was presented and it was;

RESOLVED:-to note the report.

c) Planning Correspondence

Appeal notifications

15/03710/OUT Land at Junction with Church Lane, Soulton Road, notification that the appeal will now be dealt with as a hearing.

Cllr Broomhall left the room and took no part in discussions. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether additional representations from the Town Council can be included as part of the appeal.

16/00411/FUL West Lodge, Park Road, Wem – erection of single storey extension to the side elevation; detached open fronted double garage, new pedestrian access appeal to be decided by written representations deadline 11.7.16.

RESOLVED:-to note the notifications.

32/16 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) To approve accounts for payment and payments made prior to meeting.

RESOLVED:-to approve the following payments.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq no.
Shropshire Council	Payroll May	6442.42	12.72	6455.14	DD
Barclays Bank	Charges	8.33		8.33	DD
County Loos ltd	Toilet Hire 90 th Birthday	180.00	36.00	216.00	106588

Plantscape	Planter Hire	214.00	42.80	256.80	106589
PG Skips	Skip hire	69.00	13.80	82.80	106590
PG Skips	Cemetery bin emptying	32.44	6.49	38.93	106591
PG Skips	Recreation ground bin emptying	51.24	10.25	61.49	106592
WSSA	VAT reimbursement 1 st quarter	1200.00		1200.00	106594
	Contribution	600.00		600.00	
	Total	1800.00		1800.00	
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning June	45.00		45.00	106595
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning April – May	787.50	157.50	945.00	106596
E.On	Lighting repairs	290.66	58.13	348.79	106597
ORP	CCTV repair	117.00	24.40	140.40	106598
Information Commissioner	Data Controller	35.00		35.00	106599
Springhill Tree Management	Emergency tree works	550.00	110.00	660.00	106600
Wem Town Council	Unity Trust Account opening deposit	500.00		500.00	106601

Accounts for authorisation

RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq no.
JDH Business Services	Internal Audit	320.00	64.00	384.00	106602
Sue Holliday	Fuel for generators	8.00		8.00	106603
Cllr Mellings	Travel expenses	10.40		10.40	106604
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning May/ June	787.50	157.50	945.00	106605
EON	Maintenance contract	1895.10	379.02	2274.12	106606
West Mercia energy	Electricity Toilets April	92.84	4.64	97.48	106607
	Electricity Toilets May	65.00	3.25	68.25	
	Total			165.73	
Ricoh	Copier costs	174.85	34.97	209.82	106608
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

33/16 Finance and Corporate Governance Committee Meeting 21.6.16

a) To approve these minutes and recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Mellings presented a report of the meeting and outlined the recommendations made by the committee.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the 21.6.16 and the recommendations contained therein.

34/16 Annual Accounts

a) 2015-16 year end - To approve the accounts and supporting papers for the year ending 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED:- to approve the 2015-16 year end accounts and supporting papers.

b) Annual Return.

i) To consider the Town Council's response to questions on part 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED:-that in line with recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee to answer yes to questions 1-8 on part 1 of the annual return and not applicable to question 9.

ii) To approve part 2 of the Annual Return, 2015/16 accounting statements.

RESOLVED:- to approve the 2015/16 accounting statement.

iii) To approve explanation of variances.

RESOLVED:- to approve the explanation of significant variances.

35/16 Transfer of Services

a) To consider a report from Shropshire Council on possible transfer of Shropshire Council run services.

A discussion took place on this item and it was explained that the Clerk had held preliminary discussions with Clerks from neighbouring parishes to see if there was any scope in shared funding of the library service as it is used by a number of residents in neighbouring parishes. Councillors felt that Wem had always been a proactive council and was prepared to consider taking on additional services for the benefit of local people as long as the financial burden was not excessive.

RESOLVED:-to submit expression of interest to Shropshire Council relating to the transfer of the following services/ facilities;

- The Town Council expresses an interest in providing limited financial support to enable the continuation of the library service in Wem subject to a more detailed breakdown of the financial contribution required. This agreement would be for a time limited period only until the Morgan Library can be transferred into the Town Council's ownership. Once this has been undertaken then additional discussions on the relocation of the library into the Morgan Library building could then take place.
- The Town Council accepts the freehold transfer of ownership of the 3 play areas and 1 open space owned by Shropshire Council but already managed

by the Town Council namely Cordwell Park, Lowe Hill Gardens, The Grove and Randford Way.

- The Town Council expresses an interest in the transfer of the freehold ownership of the field off Lowe Hill Road/Wemsbrook Road to the Town Council subject to the land transfer not having any covenants.

b) Memorandum of Cooperation– to consider request to sign up to the memorandum of co-operation.

A discussion took place on this item and it was felt that the subject of transfer of services had moved on significantly since the drafting of the memorandum. It was reported that Shropshire Council had indicated that it would be more flexible in relation to timescales. Councillors also felt that the calling of a referendum was untenable as the cost of holding a referendum would be excessive and achieve little in the long term.

RESOLVED:- to endorse the memorandum of cooperation subject to the removal of the call for a countywide referendum on council tax increases.

36/16 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group meeting 27.6.16

a) To approve these minutes and recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Dodd reported on the meeting and updated councillors on the extension plans for the gym. A discussion took place on the fact that the Town Council heavily subsidises the pool and it is important that this is recognised when discussing the running of the pool with other councils who may be looking to take on local leisure services.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Group meeting held on 27.6.16 and the recommendations contained in the minutes.

37/16 Barnard Street Pavement Parking – To consider Shropshire Council’s suggestion to consult residents on introduction of double yellow lines between junction with Mill Street and the end of the Old Police Station development.

RESOLVED:- to endorse the undertaking of a consultation with residents over the implementation of a parking restriction scheme between Barnard Street’s junction with Mill Street and the end of the Old Police Station.

38/16 Correspondence – to consider the following items of correspondence (copies enclosed).

i) NS Wheelers – to consider letter from Mr Harrison on public transport in North Shropshire . It was reported that Mr Harrison had hoped to attend the meeting to discuss the issues relating to public transport in North Shropshire but was unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED:- to invite Mr Harrison to the July meeting of the Town Council.

ii) Count Them In Campaign – to consider request to support the campaign.

RESOLVED:- to support the campaign.

iii) Mr Cobbold – to receive an email concerning planning issues.

The email from Mr Cobbold was considered and the Clerk was asked to challenge allegations made in the letter relating to the negativity of the council and also to request more information with regard to the planning opportunities raised in Mr Cobbold's email.

iv) M Simmons – to consider letter outlining road name suggestions for new Westlands development. Keep until the development has been built.

RESOLVED:- to file any suggestions for potential road names until the development has been started and the council is asked for suggestions.

39/16 Reports

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.

Christmas Lights Festival – Cllr Meakin reported that the committee is continuing to fundraise for the festival and that it is hoped that Wem ADOS will also be involved.

SP Energy Networks - Cllr Dee and Cllr Dodd reported on a meeting they had attended concerning a consultation of the reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network. It was reported that an information session on the project would be held in Wem in July.

Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Cllr Towers, Boddy, Dodd and Meakin had attended a recent meeting and reported that a noticeboard had been installed and working parties were being arranged to help with edging the paths. Compliments were made to the committee as Councillors felt that the cemetery was in an excellent condition.

NSALC meeting - Cllr Granger and Cllr Towers gave a report on a meeting which discussed transfer of services from Shropshire Council to town and parish councils.

WSSA AGM - Cllr Mellings reported on his attendance at this meeting and outlined the fact that the Management Committee is still seeking to identify the best model for the future running of the Association.

War Memorial Restoration Project - Cllr Granger, Cllr Mellings and Cllr Boddy had attended a meeting to discuss the War Memorial and it was reported that a public exhibition on the restoration plans will be held in late summer in the Town Hall.

Training - Cllr Moyse reported that he had attended part 1 of the chairmanship skill course which he found to be very useful.

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee. Cllr Mellings updated on the following items

Customer Service Point - a meeting is to be held to discuss the recent consultation on the withdrawal of customer service staff from Wem.

Integrated Community Management - it was reported Wem had been chosen to pilot a new multi-agency scheme which will be tasked with developing partnership work with multiple agencies to tackle issues across the town similar to the existing Team Shrewsbury initiative.

Police Crime Commissioner – A meeting is being arranged to meet with the new commissioner in September 2016.

Superfast broadband- It was reported that the uptake of superfast broadband had been low in the town and there was a need to promote it more.

Trees - A site meeting had been held with the Tree Officer from Shropshire Council to look at the condition of the trees along the River Roden and 1 tree had been identified as requiring attention.

Surfacing in Foxleigh Grove - Shropshire Council is looking to undertake road surfacing in Foxleigh Grove and at the same time try to address localised flooding problems as a result of this work.

40/16 Information/future agenda items – for consideration.

None received.

41/16 Dates of future meetings –

a) To note date of July meeting.

RESOLVED:- to hold a special meeting to consider the Westland Development Planning application at 18.00 on Thursday 14th July.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- to note the date of the next Full Council meeting as Thursday 28th July at 19.00.

42/16 Exclusion of press and public

To resolve: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public.

a) To consider nominations for Honorary Townsman award.

RESOLVED:- that Margaret Simmons be invited to accept appointment as an Honorary Townsman of Wem.

Mayor.....