

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:- Councillor E Towers (Mayor) Councillors, P Glover (Deputy Mayor), P Dee, R Dodd, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray, G Nash, P White.

7 members of the public present.

Cllr Towers introduced the Mayor's Chaplain Colin Jones and invited him to say prayers at the start of the meeting.

**45/17 To receive apologies for absence.**

None received.

Absent; Cllr Broomhall, Cllr Shingler

**46/17 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.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee	Twin-hatted member declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Mellings	Item 54/17b Wem Sports and Social Association. Board member Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Dee	Item 60/17b Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority Board Member	
Cllr Mellings	Item 60/17b Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority Board Member	

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.

None received.

**47/17 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards said that he was concerned that the Environment Agency had not objected to the planning application 17/01924/FUL. He also clarified for the Council the location of the houses in the planning application 17/03151/FUL.

Mrs Burton requested that the road sweeper be asked to clean Butler Road especially in the layby area as weeds are growing near the kerb. In addition to this the sweeper needs to clean into the gutters which are in danger of becoming blocked.

The condition of Drawwell Walk was raised as it is very overgrown and causes problems for people trying to use it to access the town centre.

**48/17 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**49/17 Progress report -** To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

The Clerk's progress report was presented and it was;

**RESOLVED:- to note the report.**

**50/17 Planning Applications.**

**a) Planning Applications for consideration**

i) **17/03150/FUL** - Change of use of car salesroom to create new office accommodation, Hawkins Motors, High Street, Wem, SY4 5DS.

**RESOLVED:- to support the application on the proviso that a contaminated land survey is undertaken and its results considered, prior to determination of the application.**

ii) **17/03151/FUL** – Erection of six, 2 storey town houses following demolition of existing garage, Hawkins Motors, High Street, Wem, SY4 5FS.

**RESOLVED:- to support the application on the proviso that a contaminated land survey is undertaken and its results considered, prior to determination of the application.**

iii) **17/03144/FUL** Thomas Adams School, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5UB Installation of 2m and 2.4m high securus fencing and gates

A discussion took place on the need for a fence that high as some Councillors felt it was too high and not necessary.

**RESOLVED:- to suspend standing orders to allow a governor of the school to explain the proposal**

Roger Drummond explained that the application for the security fence was for the safe guarding of students at the school as there have been incidents of people walking on the playing field during school hours. Therefore the School Governors considered it necessary for the safety and security of pupils.

**RESOLVED:- to support the application.**

**iv) 17/03245/REM** : Land Adj Creamore Villa, Whitchurch Road, Wem, Shropshire

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance landscaping layout and scale) pursuant to 13/05119/OUT for residential development of three detached dwellings

**RESOLVED:- to support the application**

**v) 17/03264/VAR** Variation of Condition No.2 (approved plans) attached to permission 10/04241/FUL to allow working in accordance with revised scheme drawings, The Warehouse 14 Leek Street Wem Shropshire SY4 5EP

**RESOLVED:- to support the application**

**b) To note the recent planning decisions.**

**RESOLVED:- to receive the document.**

**c) Planning Correspondence**

i) Planning Training Negotiate a Better Outcome in Planning - Wednesday 13th September 2017, 10am - 4pm at The Lord Hill Hotel, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AX – to consider sending a representative.

**RESOLVED:- to send Cllr Nash, Moyse and Towers on the course.**

**51/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment**

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

**RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments**

**Payments made prior to the meeting**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS
Shropshire Council	Payroll	6299.88	12.72	6312.60	DD
BT	Telephone	64.42	12.88	77.30	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

**Payments for approval**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS
Wicksteed	Play equipment	135.63	27.13	162.76	BACS 42.17
Web Orchard	Website Hosting	190.00	38.00	228.00	BACS 43.17
E.on	Lighting repair	76.66	15.33	91.99	BACS 44.17

PG Skips	Bin Emptying Love Lane	32.44	6.49	38.93	BACS 45.17
	Bin emptying rec.	51.24	10.25	61.49	
	Total	83.68	16.74	100.42	
Viking	Office Supplies	110.42	10.88	121.30	BACS. 46.17
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning July	45.00		45.00	BACS 47.17
Shropshire Council	Room hire 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	1525.00		1525.00	BACS 48.17
Hatchers	Legal Fees	600.00	120.00	720.00	BACS 49.17
West Mercia Energy	Toilet electricity June	48.21	2.41	50.62	BACS 50.17
SALC	Councillor Training	50.00		50.00	BACS 51.17
Plantscape	Planter Hire	214.00	42.80	256.80	BACS 52.17
Via Della Emilia	Tree Work Variegated Maple	130.00	26.00	156.00	BACS 53.17
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning July	787.50	157.50	945.00	BACS 54.17
Welch and Phillips	Swimming Pool Wall	800.00	160.00	960.00	BACS 55.17
Cllr Dodd	Travel Expenses Markets Training	6.00		6.00	300047
Shropshire Housing Group	Solo protect	19.95		19.95	300048

b) To approve bank transfers.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the following bank transfers.**

**Bank Transfers undertaken before meeting**

£20,000 from Bulmer Cottage Account to Active Saver Account to cover cost of floodlights.

**Bank Transfers for approval**

£150,000 from Active Saver Account to Unity Trust Current Account for the following payments that will require payment prior to the August meeting.

- Swimming Pool Filters and Dosing Unit £25,000
- CCLA Account first deposit £25,000
- WSSA contribution to floodlights £20,000
- Top up current account.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the transfer payments and authorise payments to WSSA and for the Swimming Pool Filter and Dosing unit works to be made prior to the August meeting.**

c) Internal controls – to note the completion of internal control checks between 1.4.17 and 30.6.17.

It was reported that the internal control checks for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter had been completed with no areas of concern found.

**RESOLVED:- to note.**

- 52/17 Finance and Corporate Governance Committee meeting 11.7.17.**  
To receive these minutes and approve recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Dodd presented these minutes and outlined the recommendations included in the minutes.

**RESOLVED:- to receive these minutes and approve recommendations contained therein.**

- 53/17 Wem Economic Forum -** To receive a report from the meeting held 3.7.17.

Cllr Dee presented a verbal report of this meeting.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the report.**

- 54/17 Wem Sports and Social Association**  
a) To receive a report from the AGM held 13.7.17

Cllr Towers reported that he had attended this meeting and circulated a written report on the meeting.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the report.**

b) to receive an update from the meeting of the Constitution Working Party meeting held 5.7.17.

Cllr Mellings updated the Council on the findings of the working party meeting which were previously circulated. He outlined that the key issue for the Town Council would be whether any new charity established should include the swimming pool and that the Council would need to consider its inclusion.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the report and defer a decision in relation to the inclusion of the Swimming Pool to the August meeting of the Town Council.**

- 55/17 Deputy Mayors Chain –** to consider quote for refurbishment and updating. It was reported that an approximate price of £300 had been received and that it was not possible to get an accurate price on the work without the chain being sent away. In order to reduce the amount of time that the chain would have to be away the Clerk requested that the Council delegate authority to a small group of councillors to progress this work.

**RESOLVED:- to set an upper limit of £500 for the refurbishment works and to delegate authority for the decision on the refurbishment works to Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee.**

- 56/17 Town Council Briefing Sessions –** for discussion.

Cllr Towers outlined his suggestion to hold briefing sessions for Councillors on key topics impacting on the town. Concerns were expressed about holding the sessions without the public being present. It was clarified that these sessions would not be decision making sessions only a means of providing Councillors with more information on a particular topic so that they could be better informed on local issues. It was also suggested that Wem Rural Parish Council be invited to attend any session held. A discussion took place on the first topic and it was felt that drug use and how drug users were supported locally would be a useful session.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the setting up of a briefing session with Shropshire Recovery Partnership in the Autumn.**

**57/17 Love Lane Cemetery** – to consider request to authorise additional works to a headstone.

The Clerk reported that a request had been received to improve the foundations of a headstone as the existing foundations could not support the weight of the headstone.

It was outlined that the plans submitted by the memorial mason stated that the works would involve no increase to the height or width of the actual headstone.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the request subject to the following conditions**

- **There is no overall increase in the height, width or depth of the headstone.**
- **The foundation stone must not be visible once the works are complete.**
- **The Town Council will not accept any liability in relation to the impact that the new foundation may have on future interments in the gravespace.**

**58/17 Highways Issues**

**a) Transport Investment Strategy** – to consider submitting a request for the funding as outlined in the strategy.

A discussion took place on the government's Transport Investment Strategy being a source of funding for a relief road around Wem. Cllr Dee outlined the importance of acting quickly on this issue. It was also suggested that other organisations in the Town and the surrounding area be asked to write to Owen Patterson MP lending their support for a relief road for Wem.

**RESOLVED:- to write to Owen Patterson MP, Chris Grayling Secretary of State for Transport and Peter Nutting to request that a relief road for Wem is considered for funding.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED:- To contact Wem Civic Society, Wem Rural Parish Council and Wem Economic Forum to request that they also write letters of support for the relief road.**

**b) Shropshire Council Parking Strategy** – for consideration.

The strategy was considered and Cllr Mellings explained the reasons behind the consultation and change in parking charges. He reported that the new pricing would mean a significant increase in parking charges for Wem which would impact negatively on the Economic Growth of the Town as people would be discouraged from using the car parks in favour of larger towns. In addition to this Councillors commented that the introduction of evening parking charges and

Sunday parking would have a negative impact on people wishing to visit the Town Hall and attend the local churches.

**RESOLVED**:- that taking into account the comments of the Councillors the Town Clerk be asked to draft a response to the consultation to be considered at the August meeting of the council.

c) **20mph conference** – to consider sending a representative.  
Cllr Towers, Murray, Nash, White and Meakin all expressed an interest in attending the conference.

**RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk contacts the organiser to see whether the town Council could send 5 representatives.

**59/17 Access to Treatment of Minor Injuries for local residents** – for discussion

Cllr Mellings reported on a recent case which had highlighted the need for improved access for residents to a minor injuries unit.

**RESOLVED**:- to request that Cllrs Mellings and Granger raise this matter with the local GP surgery.

**60/17 Correspondence** – to consider the following items of correspondence

a) Wem Good Neighbours Scheme – to consider supporting.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the scheme.

b) Fire and Rescue Services Governing Body Proposal – for consideration.

Cllr Mellings requested that it may be better to see the outcome of the Fire Authorities report on the proposal which was due out at the beginning of August before making a decision on this item.

**RESOLVED**:- to defer this item until the August meeting.

c) British Legion Lamp Post Poppies Campaign - to consider supporting.  
It was discussed that it would not be possible to support this initiative this year as no funds had been allocated in the budget for the purchase, however it may be something to consider next year to help commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One.

**RESOLVED**:- to defer to January for consideration as part of the 2018-19 budget discussions.

d) Crane Quality Counselling – to consider request for donation.

**RESOLVED**:- to request that a grant application form is submitted so it can be considered at the January budget meeting.

**61/17 Reports**

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

Written reports were received from Cllr Dodd (circulated at meeting) regarding her attendance at meetings of the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery held on 3 July 2017 and Wem Town Hall Trustees held on 11 July 2017.

**RESOLVED:- to receive these reports.**

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.

A written report was received from Cllr Mellings.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the report.**

**62/17 Future agenda items** – for consideration.

Cllr Towers requested that the following items be added to a future agenda.

Welcome to Wem Banners

Town Crier

Past Mayors Badges

Councillors also requested that the Police be invited to a future meeting.

**63/17 Dates of future meetings** – to note date of the August meeting. To set date for the Honorary Townsman award evening.

**RESOLVED:- to note that the next meeting will take place 31.8.17.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED:- to note that Honorary Townsman evening will take place on a Friday in November.**

**64/17 Exclusion of Public and Press**

To resolve that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

**RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public**

Data Protection – NALC's data protection legal briefing was considered and a discussion took place on the changes to Data Protection law from 1.4.18.

**RESOLVED:- to note the Clerk's verbal report on this matter.**

Mayor.....