

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 29th June 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 Broomhall, P Dee, R Dodd, C Granger, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, G Nash, C Shingler, P White.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Broomhall to the meeting following his recent illness.

12 members of the public present.

23/17 To receive apologies for absence.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the following apologies for absence
Cllr Murray and Cllr Johnson.**

24/17 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.

The following interests were declared by councillors

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
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	31/17 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Mellings	28/17/c Planning Correspondence - Board Member Shropshire Housing Group	None
Cllr Towers	31/17 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	None

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

None received.

25/17 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointments.

He reported that in his opinion the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Mill Street was not effective as drivers were ignoring it.

Mr Edwards outlined his objections to the planning application 17/01924/FUL Land Off Mill Street Wem Shropshire and he stated that the location of the proposals was wrong for a number of reasons including the environmental impact it would have and the fact that it was out of keeping with the area. He also queried the width of the footway along Mill Street and stated that it was too narrow for wheelchairs.

A member of the public thanked the Council for the VAS in Mill Street and stated that it was working well. He outlined his objections to the planning application stating that it was out of keeping with the conservation area and would have traffic implications for the area. He stated that the Council should comment that if planning permission was to be granted a condition of the permission would be that the developer should fund road safety improvements in Mill Street.

A resident of Mill Street asked whether the Town Council has asked Shropshire Council to repaint the zebra crossings on Mill Street and improve the road markings throughout the town.

A resident of Mill Street stated that in her opinion the VAS is having an impact, she reported that a meeting had been held with Mr Davenport of Shropshire Council and asked why there was not a representative of Wem Town Council at the meeting.

A representative of the Roden Grove Campaign Group commented that they supported the planning objections raised by other members of the public. They also commented that the proposed flats will have a negative impact on the infrastructure of the area.

A representative of Wem Civic Society commented that they supported the planning objections raised by Mr Edwards.

26/17 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 16th May 2017.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 16th May 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

27/17 Progress report - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

The Clerk was asked to see if some of the street signs located around the VAS could be relocated

The Clerk was asked to request an update in relation to the yellow lines on Station Road.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

28/17 Planning Applications.

a) Planning Applications for consideration

17/02486/FUL - Grange Park, Shawbury Road Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to provide new vehicle service bays and car showroom and refurbishment of existing vehicle service buildings following demolition of existing redundant administration buildings.

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

17/01924/FUL Land Off Mill Street Wem Shropshire, Erection of two blocks of residential care home comprising 50.no units with communal facilities; formation of car parking; diversion of public right of way and associated works.

A discussion took place and a number of Councillors outlined their objections to the application.

RESOLVED:- that Wem Town Council strongly object to this application upon the following grounds:-

- 1.The proposals will have an adverse impact on the town. The additional traffic flows that the development will create, onto an already busy and congested narrow road, opposite a large development will add to the existing air pollution and increase the standing traffic along Mill Street.
2. The proposed design and appearance of the development is completely out of keeping with its location in a small market town and will have an adverse impact upon the Conservation Area.
- 3 .The proposals will have an adverse impact upon the sympathetic redevelopment of an historic building Wem Mill which is immediately opposite the proposed development.
4. The Town Council has serious local concerns about the potential flooding of this development and its impact upon existing nearby properties which could be adversely affected by such a large building. These proposals could particularly impact on residents of Roden Grove as the North side of the River Roden is a Flood Zone 2 and the area fails the sequential test for flooding.
- 5 The Proposals will have an adverse impact on the local wildlife corridor as highlighted in the Green Network Study for Wem.
6. The Town Council do not support any diversion of a public right of way to aid this development.
7. The Town Council considers that the design of the proposed development is poor and the site is outside of the development boundary. In addition to this due to the provision of other facilities in the town for elderly residents the Town Council is not convinced there is a need of a development of this nature in the town.
8. The Proposals do not comply with the national planning policy framework for Wem.

Due to the strong feeling against this proposal the Town Council requests that the application is considered by the North Shropshire Planning Committee and that a site meeting takes place for Councillors to view the site prior to any decision being taken.

b) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the decisions.

c) Planning Correspondence

Cllr Mellings left the room and took no part in discussions.

i) to consider letter received relating to the Westlands Development.

A discussion took place on the concerns of residents over the height of the bungalows and the impact that the development was having on some neighbouring properties. The response received from Shropshire Housing Group on this matter was considered.

RESOLVED:- to receive the letter.

29/17 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 No
Welch and Phillips	Surfacing Wheatlands	1209.38	241.88	1451.26	BACS 22.17
Severn Business Solutions	Remote Access Licence	72.00	14.00	86.40	BACS 23.17
Talk Talk	Broadband May	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD
Shropshire Council	Payroll	6403.82	12.72	6416.54	DD
Viking	Office Supplies	53.15	10.63	63.78	BACS 24.17
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning May	787.50	157.50	945.00	BACS 25.17
PG Skips	Bin Emptying Love Lane	40.55	8.11	48.66	BACS 26.17
	Bin emptying rec.	64.05	12.81	76.86	
	Skip provision	70.00	14.00	84.00	
	Total	174.60	34.92	209.52	
Eon	Lighting repairs	365.29	73.06	438.35	BACS 27.17
	Annual contract 1 st payment	1800.98	360.20	2161.18	
	Total			2599.53	
Zephyr	Flags	333.90	66.78	400.68	BACS 29.17
Imprint	Newsletter Printing	185.00		185.00	BACS 30.17

SALC	Cllr Training	125.00		125.00	BACS 31.17
One stop promotions	Portable flagpole	206.00	41.20	247.20	BACS 32.17
West Mercia Energy	Toilet electricity April	46.12	2.31	48.43	BACS 33.17
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning June	45.00		45.00	BACS 34.17
Ricoh	Lease Usage Fee	105.01 70.59 175.60	35.12	210.72	BACS 35.17
Wicksteed	ROSPA inspection	270.00	54.00	324.00	BACS 36.17
Mr Crowe	Allotment rent refund			14.25	300041
ICO	Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00	300042
TWM	Vehicle Activated Sign	2500.00	500.00	3000.00	300043
Homedene	Plants for planters	333.33	66.67	400.00	300044
Cllr Mellings	Travel Expenses - social media training	10.40		10.40	300045
Talk Talk	Broadband June	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

Payments for approval

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
XMA	Toner	54.47	10.89	65.36	BACS 37.17
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning June	787.50	157.50	945.00	BACS 38.17
Shropshire Council	Health and Safety Contract	920.00	184.00	1104.00	BACS 39.17
Slcc	Data Protection Webinar	25.00		25.00	BACS 40.17
WME	Toilet electricity May	26.02	1.30	27.32	BACS 41.17
Lower Lacon Caravan Park	Compost	86.40	17.28	103.68	300046

30/17 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 13.6.17

To receive these minutes and approve recommendations contained therein.

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

31/17 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group meeting 24.5.17

To receive these minutes.

A question was asked concerning the continuation of the grant received from Shropshire Council, Cllr Mellings that if this grant was cut it was not anticipated that it would cause any major issues.

RESOLVED:- to receive these minutes.

32/17 Events Committee meeting 24.5.17

To receive these minutes.

RESOLVED:- to receive these minutes.

33/17 Town Council Vision event – to consider holding an event to map out the Town Council’s aims and objectives for the next 4 years.

A discussion took place on the need to involve the public in any event to ensure that any vision developed best represents the needs of residents.

RESOLVED:- to delegate the planning of this event to the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee to consider in more detail with a view to holding an event in October.

34/17 Updating the Town Council’s methods of communication: to consider report submitted by Cllr Moyle.

Cllr Moyle presented his report and commented that he had already set up a Town Council specific email account which can be done easily for free. He also stated that Councillors could help to reduce the Council’s costs if they were prepared to receive all meeting papers via email.

RESOLVED:- to refer this matter to the Communications Working Party for further discussion.

35/17 Shropshire Council Contract for Health and Safety Services – for consideration.

RESOLVED:- to approve the contract for 2017-18.

36/17 Deputy Mayors Chain – to consider quote for refurbishment and updating. It was reported that a quote was not available in time for the meeting.

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee to consider quotes received.

37/17 WSSA Constitution Working Party – to approve widening of the remit of the working party.

It was reported that the working party would like to broaden its remit to explore whether the establishment of a new charity/ trust that incorporated all the Town Councils sporting and leisure assets would be a better option to consider.

RESOLVED:- to widen the remit of the working party to consider the inclusion of other sporting and leisure assets in the new charity.

38/17 Highways Issues

a) HGV Survey – to consider response received from Shropshire Council. Cllr Broomhall highlighted that the Town Council’s comment that the loading bay should become a part disabled bay had been omitted. A discussion took place on whether the Council supported the creation of an environmental weight restriction on Mill street and it was

RESOLVED:- to contact Shropshire Council to request that the creation of a part loading bay part disabled bay outside the old Nat West Bank is considered as previously submitted.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- to request the matter of environmental weight restriction is reconsidered by Wem Economic Forum.

b) Road Safety Correspondence – for consideration. Councillors felt it re-enforced concerns that had been previously raised.

RESOLVED:- to receive the correspondence and the Clerk was asked to respond outlining what work had already been carried out.

c) Wem Site Meeting - To consider email received. Councillors considered the email and stated that they had not sent a representative to the meeting as no information had been received about the meeting. Cllr Mellings outlined the background to the meeting which he had arranged for residents and confirmed that no invitation was sent to the Town Council.

RESOLVED:- to receive the email.

39/17 Correspondence – to consider the following items of correspondence

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

RESOLVED:- to defer any comments on this proposal to the July meeting.

b) Merchant Navy Day – to consider request to support Merchant Navy Day.

RESOLVED:- not to support this day but to invite the Merchant Navy to send a representative to the next Armed Forces Day.

c) Shropshire Council’s response to Roden Grove flood risk. Cllr Nash reported he had responded to Shropshire Council direct on this issue and stated that in his opinion the present Environment Agency mapping requires significant updating in relation to the Roden Grove area of the town.

RESOLVED:- to respond to Shropshire Council that the Town Council supports the comments made by Cllr Nash in relation to the updating of the Environment Agency mapping in the Roden Grove area and request that Shropshire Council pursues this.

40/17 Retirement of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh – To consider request to send good wishes from the Town Council on his retirement.

RESOLVED:- to approve.

41/17 Reports

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
Written reports received from Cllr Dodd, Cllr Towers and Cllr Broomhall were circulated and considered.

RESOLVED:- to receive the 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.

42/17 Future agenda items – for consideration.

Cllr Towers requested that the Council consider the suggestion that regular briefing sessions are held with other statutory bodies.

43/17 Dates of future meetings – to note date of the July meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the next meeting will take place 27.7.17

44/17 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

a) To consider nominations for Honorary Townsman.

RESOLVED:- that Rod Owens and Roger Ashton be invited to accept appointment as Honorary Townsmen of Wem.

b) Outstanding Complaint

RESOLVED:- that Cllr Nash and Cllr Glover be appointed as replacements for Cllr Mellings and Dodd to hear the complaint against the Town Council.

Meeting ended 21.10

Mayor.....