

**Draft Minutes of Wem Economic Forum Meeting
Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem
30 May 2018 at 6pm**

Present: Wem Rural Parish Councillor Tim Wilton-Morgan (Chair), Wem Town Councillor Connie Granger, Wem Town Councillor Edward Towers, Wem Rural Parish Councillor Geoff Glover, Wem Civic Society representative Oliver Richardson, Wem Town Hall Manager Rose Horner, The Co-operative Food Manager Simon Thornley and Safer Roads Wem representative Sue Griffiths

In attendance: Shropshire Council Community Enablement Officer Sue Thomas and Wem Rural Parish Council Clerk Carole Warner (Secretary)

10/18 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

11/18 Apologies

Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings and Wem Town Council Clerk Penny O'Hagan. Cllr Edward Towers paid tribute to Mark Brothwood who had recently died. Mark had been a member of WEF for the last 4 to 5 years and although not a resident of Wem but running the NFU, was willing to contribute to town life. Mark will be sadly missed.

12/18 Notes of Meeting held on 8 March 2018

The notes were agreed.

13/18 Expenditure Voting Members - to consider 2 appointments from Local Businesses (agriculture and hospitality sectors)

General discussion took place. Potential hospitality members had been approached. Cllr Towers would re-approach.

14/18 Traffic Working Group

Cllr Edward Towers gave an overview of the results of the recent survey as per the notes of the Working Group meeting of 10 May 2018. He thanked Sue Griffiths for organising the display of the results boards in the Town Hall and Co-op. The results would be reviewed by the Rural Parish Council and Town Council at their June meetings. It was suggested that it should be requested that some of the proposals be trialled. Funding other than Shropshire Council's capital budgets should also be investigated.

15/18 Emergency Plan Working Group

Carole Warner advised that Cllrs Phil Moyse and Geoff Glover had joined the Working Group in their roles of Emergency Planning Officers for the Town Council and Rural Council respectively. Lianne Deathridge, Emergency Planning Manager Shropshire Council had been guiding the Group. Templates of Risk Register and Plan had been reviewed and agreed. A questionnaire to all businesses to assess the number of business emergency plans which were already in place had also been agreed. The Group was looking to co-opt a member of the agricultural sector to replace Mark Brothwood.



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16/18 Review Markets Working Group

Rose Horner reported that the Group was initially concentrating on promoting regular markets rather than adding additional ones until a good base had been established. Expenditure had been approved to purchase 2 PVC banners and 2 'sail' flags to help promote the markets.

A trial of extending the opening hours to 2pm had not been popular with stall holders and customers. A 1pm had been more successful but customers were still not aware.

General discussion took place on potential specialist markets, the difference between week day markets (professional stall holders) and Saturday markets, where the majority of stall holders did not rely on that business as their main source of income ie amateur. It was suggested the markets should be promoted to Telford market holders. It was agreed better signage between the Town Hall and Jubilee Square could help the regular weekly market.

17/18 Dementia Friendly Town (DFT)

Sue Thomas updated the meeting with research into becoming a (DFT). To start the process a Dementia Action Alliance group would need to be set up. Information sessions would then be held to inform shop owners/hospitality owners what would be required. Some sessions had been held already in the Cricket Club. Discussion took place about existing facilities at Wem Town Hall and that the Town Council was considering setting up a 'Care Council' of care groups.

18/18 Any other business

Oliver Richardson reminded members of the recent announcement of the closure of Barclays Bank. General discussion took place and noted Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings' intention to lead a lobby group against the closure. Simon Thornley explained the role of the Co-op with the Post Office, which may be the only banking facility left. It was agreed that comments/ideas should be forwarded to the Secretary for collation and forwarding onto the appropriate 'project manager'. Discussion took place on the booking of Jubilee Square and its increase of use.

19/18 Date, venue and time of next meeting:

AGM Thursday 12 July 2018, Roden Suite at 5.15pm