** WEM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Annual Report 2019/2020**

**Mayor of Wem 2019-2020 – Cllr Phil Glover**
**Deputy Mayor of Wem 2019-2020 – Cllr Peter Broomhall**

**Mayor of Wem 2020-2021 – Cllr Phil Glover**
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**Mayor’s Report**

**The Past Mayor of Wem, Cllr Phil Glover gives an overview the past 12 months**

It has been a privilege to be Wem Town Mayor for the last twelve months, although I had a couple of goes as Deputy Mayor beforehand just to get the hang of it!! On becoming Mayor for the first time you are heavily reliant on the guidance and advice of those that have gone before you and for that I am very grateful. So the support that I have received from my Deputy Mayor Peter, my fellow Councillors, Penny our Town Clerk and Sue our Assistant Town Clerk has been invaluable and very much appreciated.

In 2019 we were joined by Councillor Kerry Edge following the resignation of Councillor Phil Moyse. I would like to thank Phil for all his hard work during his time on the Council and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

I have raised funds throughout the year for Youth Organisations in Wem and have attended several local events, including a sky dive at Tilstock Airfield although I didn’t jump out of the plane! I have raised £2004.00 which I have been able to allocate to organisations throughout the year when they have needed it.

I have held a number of Mayor’s events, one of note being a charity Wheelbarrow Pub Crawl. I was not let down by the enthusiasm of the residents of Wem who turned out in force to support me. I thank them and everybody else who has supported me throughout my Mayoral year.

It has continued to be a difficult and complex year for the Town with more shops closing and with more uncertainty in the future following on from the impact of the coronavirus. But I have every faith in the residents of Wem to pull together during the months to come and re-build this town.

Phil Glover

Wem Town Council meets on the last Thursday of every month except August and December usually at Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem, at 7pm. But due to the current Covid19 situation the Town Council will be meeting using the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform password id and a meeting link will be listed on the agenda.

The Council always welcomes electors’ comments and suggestions and allows time at the start of each monthly meeting for questions from residents of the town wishing to attend. A copy of the agenda for meetings is displayed on the Town Council’s official notice board at the front of the Town Hall, High Street and on the Council’s official website: [www.wem.gov.uk](http://www.wem.gov.uk)

**Town Council Contact Details Tel 01939 232733,** **info@wem.gov.uk****,** [**www.wem.gov.uk**](http://www.wem.gov.uk)

**THE COUNCIL’S YEAR**

Like thousands across the world, Wem found itself in the clutches of the Coronavirus and everything changed. In March 2020 on the UK Governments advice vulnerable people were advised to stay at home and this included several members of the Town Council which changed the way meetings were held for the foreseeable future. Full Council met in person 11 times over the past year. The various committees have also met on a regular basis and outlined below is a brief snapshot of some of the issues considered by the Town Council over the past year.

**Climate Change**

The Town Council met in June 2019 to discuss a draft action plan to support the Declaration of a Climate Emergency. It was agreed that the Climate Change agenda was much wider than the Town Council and that the Town Council should be used as the catalyst to establish a Climate Change Forum for the town and surrounding areas. This would enable individuals, organisations and businesses to become involved, to share ideas and develop projects aimed at making the town carbon neutral by 2030. A public meeting was held in October and the Area Climate Change Forum was formed, this forum has now met on several occasions. In the meantime, the Town Clerk applied for and was successful in obtaining a grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund. This will be used to fund a feasibility study into identifying the most suitable type of renewable energy that could be installed to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels to run several of the Town Council owned buildings in the town.

**Planning**

The Town Council comments on all planning applications within the town area prior to their consideration by Shropshire Council who make the final decision on approval or otherwise. The Town Council works hard to listen to the views of residents prior to submitting comments on any application. In 2019 the Town Council discussed the Wem Area Place Plan Review and submitted several comments to Shropshire Council focussing on Transport and Accessibility, Housing, Health & Education and Economic Opportunities. The Council maintains that there should be no more development in the town until the improvements in the existing infrastructure (sewage, highways, school and medical capacity) raised as part of the first stage of the review are addressed. It should be noted that despite these objections the final decision on the location of future development in Wem will be made in late 2020 by Shropshire Council but this could change owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Events**

Throughout the year the Town Council has continued to recognise its close links to the Armed Forces and especially RAF Shawbury. Armed Forces Day held in June saw the Town show its support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community. This was followed with The Remembrance Day Service in November with another great turnout from Wem, this year saw the attendance of a representative from the Lord Lieutenant’s Office and Owen Paterson MP although at this event because Parliament had been dissolved awaiting the General Election, he was not in attendance as a Member of Parliament.

**Adoption of Willmott Meadow Public Open Space**

At the meeting of the Amenities and Services Committee held on 29 March 2018 it was first considered adopting the public open space at Willmott Meadow subject to certain conditions and after negotiations with Taylor Wimpey the POS was adopted by the Town Council in mid 2019. The Town Council is also responsible for the following Public Open Spaces – Wem Recreation Ground, The Wheatfields, Trentham Road and we also manage on behalf of Shropshire Council, Cordwell Park, Lowe Hill Gardens and The Grove play areas. Discussions were held with the developers to take on the management of Fothergill Way public open space but it was not possible to reach an agreement with the developers.

**Mental Health Support for Young People**

At the Annual Town meeting held in May 2019 a representative from the BEAM Project gave a presentation on the work it does in local communities running drop-in sessions which provide advice, signposting and support relating to mental and emotional wellbeing to young people under 25. Local organisations who could benefit from this work were invited to attend. Mental Health drop in provision in the town is in the process of being considered by the Town Council, funding and partners for this project are being sought.

**Town Council Income and Expenditure 2019-2020**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **2018/19** | **Income Summary** | **2019/20** |
| 302,767 | Precept  | 316,462 |
| 3,891 | Administration  | 3,484 |
| 1,045 | Training | 1,120 |
| 405 | Recreation  | 65,000 |
| 300 | Swimming Pool  | 290 |
| 6,615 | Public Toilets  | 2,118 |
| 14,270 | Cemetery  | 14,385 |
| 1,140 | Allotments  | 1,482 |
| 626 | Grants | 850 |
| 1,628 | Miscellaneous  | 2,940 |
| **332,687** | Total Income  | **408,131** |
|  | **Expenditure** |  |
| 81,146 | Staffing  | 93,558 |
| 22,076 | Administration  | 22,595 |
| 850 | Cllr Expenses inc. training | 240 |
| 9,927 | Grants/ Town Promotion  | 13,667 |
| 32,415 | Recreation  | 31,119 |
| 61,406 | Swimming Pool  | 67,990 |
| 14,329 | Public Toilets  | 11,818 |
| 1.224 | Bus Shelters  | 4,342 |
| 25,048 | Street lighting  | 16,298 |
| 3,566 | Cemetery  | 4,546 |
| 497 | Allotments  | 634 |
| 35,876 | Miscellaneous\* | 34,764 |
| **288,359** | **Total Expenditure**  | **301,570** |

\*Includes floral planters, CCTV and Town Hall Contribution

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| **Organisation** | **Contribution towards running costs and maintenance**  |
| Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery | £2,000 |
| Wem Millennium Green | £1,700 |
| Wem Town Hall | £22,000 |
| Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre | £58,000\* |
| Wem Youth Club | £2,000 |
| Christmas Lights Festival | £3,000 |
| Wem Sports & Social Association | £18,000 |
| **Organisation** | **Grant Award** |
| Wem Branch Shropshire Army Cadet Force  | £200 |
| Wem Carnival Committee | £500 |
| Albion Bowling Club | £750 |
| Wem Scout and Guide HQ | £300 |
| Westlands Community Group | £500 |
| Wem Tennis Club | £1,000 |
| Vehicles of Interest | £500 |
| Welcome to Wem Community Group  | £100 |

*\*Wem Town Council owns Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre but it is leased to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Ltd a charity and Industrial Provident Society who run it on behalf of the Town Council.*

**Councillor Contact Details**

The Council comprises of 14 Councillors representing 2 Town Wards, East and West. The Councillors are elected every 4 years with the last Election being held in May 2017. The Town Council is served by a Town Clerk and 3 other full and part-time staff. The Council is chaired by the Town Mayor who, with the Deputy

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| **Cllr P Broomhall**(Deputy Mayor**)** | Sunnyside, 3 Swain Close, Wem, SY4 5NZ peterbroomhall2@icloud.com | 232573 |
| **Cllr Mrs P A Dee** | 17 Chapel Street, Wem, SY4 5ERpauline.dee@shropshire.gov.uk | 233037 |
| **Cllr Mrs R E Dodd** | Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5ANdoddrosemary875@gmail.com | 233083 |
| **Cllr R Drummond** | Arvrio, Soulton road, Wem SY4 5HRjandrdrummond@yahoo.co.uk  | 232363 |
| **Cllr Mrs K Edge** | 10 Park Road, Wem, SY4 5DAedgekerry71@gmail.com | 233126 |
| **Cllr P Glover**(Mayor) | 6 Trentham Close, Wem, SY4 5AS philipeglover@gmail.com | 234037 |
| **Cllr Mrs C Granger** | 1 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT conniegranger84@gmail.com | 236460 |
| **Cllr P Johnson** | The Thimbles, 55 Eckford Park, Wem, SY4 5HL paul.johnson27@yahoo.com | 232035 |
| **Cllr Mrs M J Meakin** | 5 Station Road, Wem, SY4 5BQ mandymeakin@gmail.com  | 234834 |
| **Cllr C J Mellings** | Dwyfor, 37 Kynaston Drive, Wem, SY4 5DE Chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk | 01743 252924 |
| **Cllr J H Murray** | 6 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5ANjhmurray@hotmail.co.uk | 232007 |
| **Cllr G Nash** | Brook Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HEGeorge.h.nash@hotmail.com | 07947 558402 |
| **Cllr G Soul** | Oakleigh, Aston Road, Wem SY4 5JDgeoffsoul49@gmail.com | 232544 |
| **Cllr E W Towers** | Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD edwardtowers@btinternet.com | 235283 |

Mayor, is elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

**Town Council Staff**

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| **Town Clerk**Penny O’Hagan | Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street SY4 5DB  | 01939 232733 Email info@wem.gov.uk |
| **Assistant Clerk**Sue Thornhill | Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street SY4 5DB | 01939 232733Email assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk |
| **Groundsman**John Ralphs |  | 07970969037Email groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk |
| **Litterpicker**Chris Martin |  | 01939 232733 |