

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held in the Roden Suite,
Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7 p.m.

Present:-Councillor R Dodd (Mayor) Councillors, E Towers (Deputy Mayor), M Meakin, P Moyse, D Boddy, C Mellings, P Johnson, C Granger, K Bailey, P Broomhall, P Glover, P Dee and J Murray.

Mrs Penny O’Hagan (Town Clerk).

Rev Adams said prayers at the start of the meeting

5 members of the public present.

148/17 To receive apologies for absence.

RESOLVED:- to accept the following apology for absence;
C Shingler

149/17 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 declarations of interest were declared.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Shropshire Councillor Cllr Dee and Cllr Mellings	Twin-hatted member 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 Mellings	Item 154/17b mileage claim	
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Towers and Moyse	Item 154/17b – Trustees of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Cllr Mellings and Cllr Towers Dispensation previously granted to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.
Cllr Johnson	153/17c, Bowling Club member. 155/17 WSSA executive member	
Cllr Meakin	153/17c, 155/17 WSSA Executive member	

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

150/17 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards raised the following issues:-

- There is a need for a dog fouling bin on Butler Road.
- In light of the discussions at the budget meeting he suggested that the Council should request training and guidance on the Code of Conduct from the Monitoring Officer at Shropshire Council.
- If the ownership of the Morgan Library is to be transferred to the Town Council in the future, the Council must ensure that the library is returned in a state of good repair.
- Following the recent accident at New Street and the subsequent damage to the wall Mr Edwards suggested that Shropshire Council should ask that the wall be altered to widen the corner junction and improve sight lines.

151/17 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of an ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th December 2016 and special meeting held on 17th January 2017.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th December 2016 as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th January 2017 as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

152/17 Progress report - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

153/17 Planning Applications

a)Planning Applications for consideration

i) 16/05712/TPO - Proposed Development Land Adj Creamore Villa Proposal: To remove one Wellingtonia tree protected by Shropshire Council (Fismes Way and Oakley Meadow, Wem) TPO 2015.

RESOLVED:- to object to the application on the grounds of the importance of the tree to the local landscape and the fact that the tree is in good health with no safety issues.

ii) 16/05720/OUT - Mill House Farm Proposal: Outline application for the erection of a single residential dwelling to include access.

A discussion took place on the development boundary in relation to this development and it was

RESOLVED:- to object to the application for the following reasons

- **The proposed access to the development is inadequate due to its narrow width and this will cause problems for vehicles turning into and out of the development.**
- **The development is outside the development boundary.**

iii) 16/05727/FUL - Mill House Farm, Whitchurch Road, Wem, SY4 5QR

Proposal: Conversion of a barn to dwelling.
It was explained that as this was an application for conversion of an existing building the development boundary issue was not a factor.

RESOLVED:- to object for the following reason

The proposed access to the development is inadequate due to its narrow width and this will cause problems for vehicles turning into and out of the development.

iv) 16/05869/FUL - Islington House, 79 New Street, Wem, SY4 5AF. Proposal: Erection of a new dwelling with detached garage.

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

v) 17/00084/FUL - 15 Pyms Road, Wem SY4 5AT. Proposal: Erection of single storey rear and side extensions following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED:- to support the application

b) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note.

c) Planning Correspondence

WSSA planning notice – to receive planning notice for the building of a new Bowling Club pavilion at the Butler Sports Centre.

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

RESOLVED:- not to comment on the proposals.

154/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment

a) To approve monthly financial statement.

The monthly financial statement was presented and it was reported that for the 3rd quarter of 2016-17 the Mayor had undertaken the regular monthly checks of the accounts as part of the internal control procedure and found no errors.

RESOLVED:- to approve the report.

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

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments.

Accounts paid prior to the meeting on 26.1.17

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq number
Shropshire Council	Payroll Nov	6566.82	12.72	6579.54	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

BT	Phone	55.46	11.09	66.55	DD
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Accounts for authorisation 26.1.17

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS No
Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Town Council Contribution	14500.00		14500.00	BACS 48
Severn Business Solutions	Email repairs	92.50	18.50	111.00	BACS 49
E.on	18 Column and light replacements	17682.90	3536.58	21219.48	BACS 50
Viking	Postage and stationery	90.36	7.07	97.43	BACS 51
PG Skips	Recreation bin emptying	51.24	10.25	61.49	BACS 52
	Cemetery bin emptying	32.44	6.49	38.93	
	Total	83.68	16.74	100.42	
Shropshire Council	Office rent	1525.00		1525.00	BACS 53
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning January	45.00		45.00	BACS 54
West Mercia Energy	Toilet electricity	51.41	2.57	53.98	BACS55
Healthmatic	December toilet cleaning	787.50	157.50	945.00	BACS56
West Mercia Supplies	Stationery	30.37	6.08	36.45	BACS57
Ray Parry	Play equipment parts	500.00	100.00	600.00	300012
Cllr Mellings	Training mileage	10.40		10.40	300013

155/17 Wem Sports and Social Association - to consider report on the future management of Wem Sports and Social Association.
Cllr Meakin and Cllr Johnson left the room and took no part in discussions.

A discussion took place on this item and it was,

RESOLVED:- to agree to the following;

- To enter into further discussions with the Management Committee of the WSSA to progress the aspiration of the Association that the WSSA becomes an incorporated charity, with Wem Town Council as the Sole Trustee (subject to Charity Commission approval).
- To form a Working Party made up of 4 Councillors and Trustees of WSSA to progress this proposal. Cllrs Mellings, Granger, Towers and Dodd were nominated as members of the Working Party with Cllr Murray as reserve.

- **That the Town Council seek advice on the need to appoint an alternative solicitor to represent the Town Council on this issue.**

156/17 HGV Survey Public Meeting 12.1.17

a) To consider notes from meeting and options outlined by Shropshire Council at the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on this item and Councillors noted that the meeting was very well attended by residents from both the town and rural parishes. The recent damage to the wall on New Street was raised and Councillors stated that the survey did not take into account the effect that the damage being caused by vehicles was having on the town and that Shropshire Council must take notice of what was said at the meeting. It was agreed that doing nothing to address the problem was not an option and Shropshire Council must focus on the disproportionate impact that HGVs are having on the town's infrastructure and find a solution to ensure this is addressed.

RESOLVED:- to support the following options

- **To request a review of HGV signage in the Town and surrounding area.**
- **To request that Shropshire Council Highways Department undertake a feasibility study into whether a traffic lighting system to manage vehicle flow through the town similar to the Much Wenlock system would be suitable for Wem.**
- **To request that Shropshire Council consider whether there was any merit in implementing a one way traffic system through the town to relieve pressure on the High Street and surrounding roads.**
- **The Town Council would wish Shropshire Council to reconsider the need for a relief road to enable HGV traffic to bypass the town.**
- **That the parking bay outside the old Nat West Bank be converted into a loading bay. This option must go hand in hand with an increase in the presence of Parking Enforcement Officers in the Town.**

FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That as it is vital to continue to engage on this issue with Wem Rural Parish Council, local business and community representatives, Wem Economic Forum is nominated as the lead group to progress these options in partnership with Shropshire Council.

b) To consider emails received from Mr Cobbold and Mr Hand on this issue.

Thanks were recorded to both residents for their continued interest in Town Council matters.

RESOLVED:- to note the correspondence and The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council to request that Civil Enforcement Officers from Shropshire Parking Service visit the town more regularly to enforce illegal parking.

157/17 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 17.1.17

To approve these minutes and recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of 17.1.17 and to approve the recommendations contained therein.

158/17 Robert Hill and Noble Street Charity – To nominate a trustee to this charity.

RESOLVED:- to nominate Cllr Meakin as trustee to the Robert Hill and Noble Street Charity for a 3 year period beginning February 2017.

159/17 Town Council Elections – to approve candidate information pack and agree to organise information sessions to encourage candidates to stand for election.

It was reported that a display board promoting elections and the work of the Town Council had been developed and that a number of drop in sessions at locations around the town had been provisionally booked.

RESOLVED:- to approve the candidate information pack and to authorise the holding of drop in sessions in order to promote the elections.

160/17 Correspondence – to consider the following items of correspondence (copies enclosed).

a) Shropshire Bus Strategy Consultation.

A discussion took place on the importance of maintaining both bus services in the town and both services were vital to residents.

RESOLVED:- to instruct the Clerk to draft a response and circulate to Councillors prior to sending to Shropshire Council.

b) Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons Of Light 11th November 2018

RESOLVED:- to note and discuss the project with Wem Sports and Social Association Management Committee.

c) Email outlining the need for a simple payment point in Wem.

Cllr Mellings reported that he had been in discussions with the paypoint company and the Department of Work and Pensions on this issue and was actively pursuing this issue.

RESOLVED:- to note.

161/17 Reports

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

Cllr Dodd gave a verbal report on the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery meeting and Cllr Towers circulated a copy of the minutes of the recent meeting. Cllr Broomhall circulated a written report on the Wem Christmas Lights Festival meeting.

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee. Cllr Mellings circulated a written report which was considered and noted. A discussion took place on the level crossing and Cllr Mellings was asked to raise concerns over the number of time the barriers seemed to be stuck down especially in the recent bad weather.

RESOLVED:- to note the reports.

162/17 Future agenda items – for consideration.

The Clerk was asked to request that a representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Team attend the next meeting to give a report.

Cllr Dee requested that The Council discuss the issue of Wem not appearing on postal addresses of properties in the town which continues to cause problems for residents.

RESOLVED:- to agree that both items be placed on a future agenda.

163/17 Dates of future meetings – To note date of the February meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the February meeting would take place on 23.2.17.

164/17 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 an incident report submitted by Town Clerk.

A discussion took place on the report and a draft letter in response to the incident was circulated and it was

RESOLVED:- to approve the letter and it was agreed that it should be sent by The Mayor on behalf of the Town Council.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- To review lone working procedures.

Mayor.....