Minutes of an Ordinary Town Council Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present:- Cllrs, B Barker (Mayor), P Broomhall, D Parry, B Cotterell, R Gascoigne, L Gilchrist (Deputy Mayor), D Hill, P Johnson, T O'Flaherty.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

Cllr Gary Groves – Shropshire Council.

0 members of the public present.

251/25-29 **To note apologies for absence received.**

RESOLVED;- that the apologies received from Cllrs Soul, Nash, Hudson and Hoffmann be received and accepted.
Absent Cllr Towers

252/25-29 **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

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers	264/25-29 WSSA Trustee.	To discuss but not vote on all matters relating to WSSA
Cllr O'Flaherty	264/25-29 WSSA Trustee.	

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

253/25-29 **Public Participation -** a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
None present.

254/25-29 **Council Minutes -** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 28.5.26.

RESOLVED;- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the annual meeting of the Town Council held on 28.5.26 and they were duly signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

255/25-29 **Reports**
a) To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.
b) Mayoral Report – to receive report on Mayoral activities over the past month.
c) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
d) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors for Wem Area.

RESOLVED;- to note the reports.

256/25-29 **Planning Applications**
a) To note the recent planning decisions.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to note the planning decisions to date.

b) Planning Applications – to consider.
i. 26/01539/LBC: 23 Noble Street, Wem, SY4 5DZ, Proposal: Conversion of existing external toilet into a shower room with access from the enclosed porch area.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- not to comment.

ii. 26/02034/FUL, 7 Marlcroft, Wem,SY4 5AN Side extension.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- not to comment.

c) Local Plan Consultation - to discuss.
It was agreed to focus on questions 13,14 and 15 in the consultation as directed by SALC

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to answer yes to questions 13,14 and 15 of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

257/25-29 **Finance and Accounts for Payment**.
a) Budget Report – to consider

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to note the budget report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to note that the checks have been carried by Cllr Johnson.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to approve the following payments.

Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries	£7,212.47		£7,212.47	BACS PROLL
	HMRC	£2,913.37		£2,913.37	BACS HMRC
	Pensions	£2,036.55		£2,036.55	BACS LGPS
ISM IT	IT Support	£353.29	£70.66	£423.95	DD 19.26
Unity Trust Bank	Transaction charges	£18.10		£18.10	DD 20.26
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Balance	£102.99		£102.99	DD 21.26
EE	Mobile Phones	£33.69	£6.74	£40.43	DD 22.26
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.5.26 - 8.6.26	£69.96		£69.96	DD 23.26
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	£127.63	£25.53	£153.16	DD 24.26
Waterplus	Allotment Water 12.5.26 - 12.6.26	£3.32	£2.27	£3.32	DD 25.26

Waterplus	Rec Toilet Water 14.5.26 - 14.6.26	£62.78	£6.72	£69.50	DD 26.26
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges April	£17.65		£17.65	DD 27.26
West Mercia Energy	Rec toilets energy 1.5.26 - 30.5.26	£64.23	£3.21	£67.44	DD 28.26
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.5.26 - 30.5.26	£78.45	£3.92	£82.37	DD 29.26
Unity Trust Bank	Cash/Cheque Charges	£19.20		£19.20	DD 30.26
DANFO	Toilet Cleaning	1029.24	205.85	1235.09	SO 3.26
Total DDs / Early Payments				**£13,211.26**	

Credit Card Payments (for Information only)

Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00	CC 5.26

Internal Transfers

From	To	Amount	Reason
Current Account	Nationwide	£100,000	Maximise Interest

Payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
DW Evans	Gravedigging	£1,060.00		£1,060.00	59.26
Rarity Emporium	Mayoral Boards	£47.50		£47.50	60.26
D Murray	Floral Planters	£200.00		£200.00	61.26
Shropshire Council	Energy Costs Q1	£2,474.36	£494.87	£2,969.23	62.26
Ricoh	Copying charges	£166.18	£33.23	£199.41	63.26
Marlowe Env Serv*	Legionella Test	£366.00	£73.20	£439.20	64.26
PG Skips	Cemetery Bin	£50.84	£10.16	£61.00	65.26
PG Skips	Cardboard Bin	£33.04	£6.60	£39.64	66.26
PG Skips	Rec Bin	£79.56	£15.92	£95.48	67.26
Rarity Emporium	What's On in Wem	£115.00		£115.00	68.26
SALC	Conference Fee	£75.00		£75.00	69.26
Viking	Key Safe	£29.64	£5.93	£35.57	70.26
Fenland Leisure	Cradle Swing	£117.37	£23.47	£140.84	71.26
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelters	£75.00		£75.00	72.26
Screwfix	Sundries	£24.57	£4.91	£29.48	73.26
Screwfix	PPE	£30.82	£6.17	£36.99	74.26
Screwfix	Sun Cream	£6.66	£1.33	£7.99	75.26
Zephyr	Town Flag	£245.00	£49.00	£294.00	76.26
D Murray	Watering - June	£1,116.50		£1,116.50	77.26
MoRServ	Event Management	£540.00	£108.00	£648.00	79.26
Via Della Emilia	Tree Works	£783.00	£156.60	£939.60	80.26
A Roberts	Car Parking	£52.13	£13.87	£66.00	81.26
CES	Asbestos Removal	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00	82.26

Hunter Lloyd	Rec Toilet light	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00	83.26

258/25-29 **Events Liaison Group 26.5.26 and 18.6.26 –** to consider notes from these meetings and any recommendations contained within.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to receive the notes from the meetings held on 25.5.26 and 18.6.26.

259/25-29 **Communications working party** – to receive report on timelines, consider draft survey and agree budget.
A discussion took place and some minor amendments to the survey were suggested.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to

- **accept the amendments to the draft survey questions.**
- **allocate £2700 from the Service Support Earmarked Reserve for the costs of the consultation.**
- **send a letter to every address on the electoral register in Wem Urban Parish notifying them of the survey and providing details.**
- **pro-actively promote the survey including the use of large using posters and having a market stall staffed by Councillors and Staff to promote the survey helping residents to access.**
- **Set a closing date of 18th September 2026.**

260/25-29 **Town Council Assets**
a) Car Park Toilets - to consider Action Plan created following Legionella Risk Assessment for the Toilet block.
The Action Plan was considered and it was:

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to approve the action plan and note that other than the scale issue, which would be raised with the cleaners, no other items raised in the report required action other than monitoring.

b) Streetlighting column replacement – to consider selected columns and quote received.
It was explained that 3 quotes were not sought as this work forms part of the street lighting maintenance contract.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;- to approve the columns selected to be replaced except for the Leek Street Column as this will be held over to 2027-28 and to accept the quote provided by Highline Electrical.

c) Oyster Dish Play Equipment Bearing Replacement Quote – to consider
The Clerk explained that 3 companies had been approached for this work and only one was able to offer a supply and install price.

<u>RESOLVED</u>;-

- **to suspend financial regulations to permit only 1 quote to be considered due to the specialist nature of the work.**
- **to award the contract to replace the bearing on the Oyster Dish located on Wem Recreation Ground to Ray Parry Playgrounds at a cost of £3650.**

261/25-29 Asset Transfer

a) to discuss letter from Shropshire Council

A discussion took place on this item and the view was expressed that it was not possible to respond to the consultation until after the Town Council's own consultation.

RESOLVED;- to respond to the question, Is your Council interested in continuing a more detailed discussion with Shropshire Council about working in partnership around assets and Street Scene services? - Not at this time but we may be interested in the future.

b) to discuss letter received from Persimmon Homes

A discussion took place on this item and concern was expressed about the size and variety of public open space on the Lowe Hill Road Development which amounted to over 6 acres and the maintenance requirements of the areas as laid out in the landscape management plan

RESOLVED;- That the Town Council declines the offer from Persimmon Homes to take on the ownership of the public open spaces within the new development off Lowe Hill Road, on the grounds that the commuted sum of £200,000 offered is insufficient to cover the items included and the level of ongoing maintenance required as detailed I the Landscape Management Plan.

262/25-29 Christmas Lights Competition – to consider report and quotes.

It was explained that two companies had been contacted but only one quote had been returned for this project.

RESOLVED;- to run the competition for a second year and allocate £500 from general reserves for this competition. To award the contract to construct the winning entry to Components Co.

263/25-29 Town Business Plan

a) Morgan Library Planters – to discuss. (deferred from May)

RESOLVED;- to seek permission from Shropshire Council to relocate one or two of the Council's 3 tiered planters to the front of The Morgan Library in October, which will then be planted with winter flowering plants for the winter season.

264/25-29 WSSA Annual Report – for consideration.

Cllr O'Flaherty took no part in discussions.

RESOLVED;- to note the report.

265/25-29 Correspondence

a) GOAL – request for support

It was explained that this item had been withdrawn as GOAL had not been successful in its application.

b) Community Resource Hearing loss – request for support

RESOLVED;- to

- **request a clearer breakdown of the cost of running the service specifically in Wem.**

- **continue to offer room support for free**
- **consider any financial application in line with the Town Council grants policy.**

c) Shropshire Council – register of interests.

RESOLVED;- to remove all councillors personal information from noticeboards and website.

d) Local Bus Retendering

RESOLVED;- to note the correspondence.

266/25-29 **Dates of future meeting** – to note the date and time of the July Ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED;- to note that the next meeting of the Council will be held on 30.7.26 at 7pm.

Meeting ended 20.20

Mayor……………..……………………..