

Minutes of an ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on
Thursday 29th April 2021 at 19.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, R Drummond, K Edge, A Everett, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, G Soul, E Towers, G Nash

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)
2 members of the public present.

At the start of the meeting Cllr Glover thanked the Council for all its support over his Mayoral term of the last 2 years.

374/21 To receive apologies and reasons for absence
None

375/21 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 Mellings and Dee	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensations to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Granger	379/21 Planning Application 21/01281/FUL 8 Crabtree Lane, Wem, Shropshire - friend of applicant	
Cllr Meakin	381/21b personal interest as a member of Friends of Whitchurch Road Committee	
Cllr Dee	379/21 Planning application 21/01508/FUL Ikoyi Lodge, 8 Ellesmere Road, Wem personal interest as knows the applicant	

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

None received.

376/21 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
No matters raised.

377/21 Council Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25th March 2021.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the zoom virtual meeting platform on 25.3.21 be approved as a correct record. Authority was given for them to be signed by the Mayor at a later date.

378/21 Reports

a) Clerks progress Report - to consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

379/21 Planning Applications

a) **Planning Applications** – to consider the following

21/01330/LBC 23 Chapel Street Wem SY4 5ER Proposal: Internal and external works to existing property including replacement and installation of conservation rooflights, removal of stud walls, insertion of bi-fold door and full height window at ground floor affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

RESOLVED:- to support the application

21/01326/FUL 23 Chapel Street Wem SY4 5ER Proposal: Internal and external works to existing property including replacement and installation of conservation rooflights.

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

21/01281/FUL 8 Crabtree Lane, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5AJ Proposal: Erection of 2No. bungalows, formation of access and parking (resubmission).
Cllr Granger left the meeting and did not take part in discussions.
Concerns were raised about the proposed location of bungalow B

RESOLVED:- to object to the planning application for the following reason

- **The Town Council considers that the erection of 2 bungalows on this site will overdevelop the location. As stated previously the Town Council will only be willing to support development of bungalow A on the proposed plans.**

Cllr Granger returned to the meeting.

21/01508/FUL Ikoyi Lodge, 8 Ellesmere Road, Overfields, Wem, SY4 5TU
Proposal: Change of use from studio to therapy room and associated works.
Cllr Dee left the meeting and took no part in discussions

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

Cllr Dee returned to the meeting.

b) **Planning Decisions** – to consider report.

RESOLVED:- to note the report

c) 20/01054/OUT Lowe Hill Road, Wem Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/L3245/W/20/326364, to nominate a councillor to attend the hearing.

RESOLVED:- to nominate Cllr Towers to attend the hearing and represent the Council's views with Cllr Soul as second nominee if two are permitted to attend.

380/21 Finance and Accounts

a) Accounts for payment – To approve accounts for payment.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following accounts for payment
Accounts paid prior to the meeting

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
EE	Mobile phone	21.20	4.30	25.50	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	19.95	3.99	23.94	DD
Unity	Quarterly credit charges	3.20		3.20	
Unity	Bank charges			28.35	

Accounts for approval 29.4.21

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Viking	Stationery	153.75	17.55	171.30	1.21
SALC	Councillor Training	75.00		75.00	2.21
PG Skips	Bin emptying Cemetery and Recreation Ground March 2021	110.85	22.20	133.05	3.21
West Mercia Energy	Electricity Supply Public Toilets 1.2.21-28.2.21	116.21	5.81	122.02	4.21
ORP	Installation & Materials for additional wireless equipment	328.00	65.60	393.60	5.21
Ash Road Markings	Line marking car park and MUGA	1105.20	221.04	1326.21	6.21
Shropshire Council	Salaries April March expenses/overtime			8322.92	7.21
Shropshire Council	Pension Fund Deficit 2021-22	200.00		200.00	8.21
ISM Ltd	Computer Contract	61.98	12.40	74.38	9.21
Shropshire Council	External Payroll Charge 1.4.21-30.6.21	152.50	30.50	183.00	10.21
Shropshire Council	Office Rent & Service Charge 1.4.21-30.6.21	1525.00		1525.00	11.21
Fruitful Deli	Re-imburement April meeting expenses	29.85		29.85	12.21
ICCM	Annual Membership	95.00		95.00	13.21
Town Clerk	Litter Picker equipment (mobile phone)	15.00		15.00	14.21

Shropshire Council	Love Lane Cemetery Rates 1.4.21-31.3.22	97.31		97.31	15.21
Wem Sports and Social association	Annual contribution	19000	2533.20	21533.20	16.21
Friends Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Contribution	41250		41250	17.21
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning April 2021	65.00		65.00	18.21
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	19.21
SALC	Membership	1731.74		1731.74	19a.21
Onecom	Telephone	52.55	10.51	63.05	DD

Organisation	Grant / Contribution	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS No
Wem ADOS	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	20.21
Wem Cricket Club	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	21.21
Wem Army Cadet Force League	Grant approved 25.2.21			200.00	22.21
Blossoming Wem Group (Wem Garden Club)	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	23.21
NS Wheelers	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	24.21
Wem Bowling Club	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	25.21
1 st Wem Scouts	Grant approved 25.2.21			300.00	26.21
Wem Scout/ Guide Headquarters	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	27.21
Wem Jubilee Band	Grant approved 25.2.21			500.00	28.21
Hope House Hospice	Grant approved 25.2.21			250.00	29.21
Wem Christmas Lights & Festival	Contribution towards running of event	3000.00		3000.00	30.21
Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery	Annual Maintenance Contribution	2000.00		2000.00	31.21

Wem Millennium Green	Annual Maintenance Contribution	1700.00		1700.00	32.21
Wem Youth Club	Contribution towards running of club	2000.00		2000.00	33.21
Wem Town Hall	SLA Agreement	22,000.00		22,000.00	34.21

b) To note the approval under delegated authority of 3 year Payroll SLA with Shropshire Council.

RESOLVED:- to approve

c) Town Council Insurance – to consider quote received.
The insurance was reviewed and it was

RESOLVED:- to approve the quote submitted by Zurich

381/21 Town Council Grants

a) To consider earmarking £500 underspend in the 2020/21 Grants / Town promotion cost centre for small grants.

RESOLVED:- to earmark £500 from 2020/21 Grants/ Town promotion cost centre for small grants.

b) To consider the grant application omitted in error from the February Town Council meeting.
Cllr Meakin left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

RESOLVED:- to approve the grant application of £500.

Cllr Meakin returned to the room.

382/21 Planning, Transport and Climate Change Committee held 26.3.21 - to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider the recommendation contained within.

RESOLVED:- to receive draft minutes from the Planning, Transport and Climate change meeting held 26.3.21 and approve the recommendation contained within.

383/21 Heads Up Mental Health Project – to consider and approve contract with Shropshire Youth Association.

Concerns were raised about the contract as it did not provide enough detail outlining roles and responsibilities. Rather than deferring the contract it was

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Cllr Hill to review the draft contract and approve it once revisions had been made to their satisfaction.

384/21 Town Council Health and Safety Support – to consider quotes received.

The Clerk reported that she had approached 3 companies for quote but only 2 had returned them.

RESOLVED:- to

- **Suspend financial regulations to allow only 2 quotes to be considered.**
- **To award the contract for Health and Safety support to Shropshire Council.**

385/21

Gravedigging Contract – to consider quotes received.

It was reported that although the contract had been advertised due to the specialist nature of the work and the fact that the Town Council was seeking quotes for hand digging only one quote had been returned.

RESOLVED:- to

- **Suspend financial regulations to enable only one quote to be considered.**
- **Award the contract for Gravedigging in Love Lane Cemetery to Mr David Evans and to start the contract on 1st June 2021 and review after 1 year.**

Clerk temporarily left the meeting for 5 minutes due to a connection issue.

386/21

Return to Face to Face Meetings – to consider guidelines.

The Town Clerk's report on the matter was considered.

RESOLVED:- that

- **The Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held on 20.5.21 will be run as a hybrid meeting with the Councillors and co-option candidates present in the Roden Suite and the press and public attending via zoom.**
- **The Annual meeting will have a shortened agenda to deal with key matters only and all those present will have to follow guidelines issued in advance of the meeting.**
- **No committee meetings to be held inside until after 21st June 2021.**
- **The Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will have delegated authority to review this decision should Legislation or Government Guidelines change before the 21.6.21.**

387/21

Highways

a) to consider response received from Shropshire Council on outstanding Highways issues.

Councillors expressed frustration at the lack of progress on Highways matters in the town.

RESOLVED:- to

- **Accept the proposal.**
- **To organise a meeting to progress the matter after the elections as possible to be attended by Cllr Drummond, Cllr Everett, Cllr Soul, Cllr Towers, Cllr Broomhall and the portfolio holder for Highways.**

b) to consider correspondence received from Childs Ercall Parish Council.

RESOLVED:- to

- Support the request to send a letter outlining the Town Council's frustrations at the lack of maintenance on rural highways.
- Also raise concerns about the management of the Kier maintenance contract.
- Contact Childs Ercall Parish Council to thank them for the initiative and to suggest that in future SALC may be a more suitable organisation to channel letters like this through.

388/21 Correspondence - for consideration
a) Local Policing Charter Consultation.

RESOLVED:- to identify the following three policing concerns for the Town

- The lack of police officers allocated to the Wem Safer Neighbourhood Team
- Speeding issues in and around the town.
- Anti-social behaviour.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- that the Town Council would wish to have Wem SNT resourced so a police presence could be in Wem area 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

389/21 Reports
a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Minutes from the NSALC were previously circulated.
b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.

RESOLVED:- to note written reports from Cllr Mellings and Dee.

390/21 Future agenda items – for consideration Councillor's opportunity to raise items for inclusion on the next agenda – *Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.*
Improvements to lighting in the town.

391/21 Date of next meeting – to note date of May meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the next meeting will be held on 20th May 2021 in the Roden Suite.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Glover and other Councillors expressed grateful thanks for all the work that Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee had carried out on behalf of the people of Wem over the last 40 years.

Meeting ended 20.35

Mayor.....