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WEM TOWN COUNCIL

MRS. J. M. DRUMMOND
Town Clerk & Treasurer

TOWN HALL
HIGH STREET
WEM
SHROPSHIRE SY4 5DG

Tel.: Wem 32733
(S.T.D. 0939)

Mr. C.H. Jeffery,
Director of Housing and Technical Services,
North Shropshire District Council,
New Street,
Wem

2nd July 1986

Dear Mr. Jeffery,

Play Areas - Council Estates in Wem

Further to my letter of 25th June 1986 I thank you for the copy of your letter to Cllr. Butler.

This letter was discussed at a meeting of the Town Council held on the 26th June 1986 and I am pleased to be able to inform you that my Members formally resolved to take over maintenance of the play areas at Cordwell Park, Lowe Hill Gardens and The Grove.

Yours sincerely,

J. Drummond

Town Clerk



29.3.19 request meeting to review

Wem Town Council

8 March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Environmental Maintenance Grant 2018/19 application

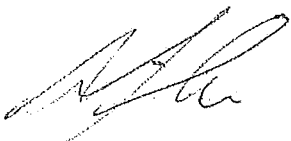
Following the decision made on your application for an environmental grant within the new revised process I have been contacted by Councillor Melling's to review the decision made by my team.

The grant for Wem Town Council is complicated by an existing agreement that they have made with North Shropshire District Council over the management and maintenance of 3 play areas in 1986; those being at Cordwell Park, Lowe Hill Gardens and The Grove. Since the agreement was made in 1986 the Town Council have been funding this activity independently without grant awards from Shropshire Council. I have attached a copy of the agreement for reference.

At the current moment with this legal agreement in place Officers are unable to grant the award to include any at the above-mentioned play areas which resulted in the lower award than requested.

Without an agreement to formally review or release the Town Council from the agreement officers cannot reconsider the award for activities in these play areas.

Yours faithfully



Andy Wilde
Interim Operations Manager
Shropshire Council

Wem Town Council

Wem-Birthplace of the Modern Sweet Pea

Town Clerk and Treasurer:
Mrs. P. E. O'Hagan

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Mr Wilde
Operations Manager
Shire Hall
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

7 February 2019

Dear Mr Wilde

Environmental Maintenance Grant - Decision Review

Wem Town Council has received notification that it has been awarded £355 from Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Grant.

We were very disappointed not to receive the £1500 requested. From the award that the Town Council has been allocated it seems that you have deemed that the maintenance of the amenity areas is ineligible for this grant application.

Having studied the grant policy it does not state anywhere that amenity areas are not eligible for the grant therefore the Council is perplexed as to why no award has been given for their maintenance especially as the three Shropshire Council owned play areas we are seeking support to maintain come under the remit of North Area Environmental Maintenance Team.

The Grant Policy lays out the following criteria for which the grant money can be used

Policy Criteria	Wem Town Council Application
Maximum of £1500 per annum	Application for £1500
Population less than 10,000	Population 6100
Match Funding	In place through use of Town Council machinery/ staff time/ fuel costs
Undertaken on Shropshire Council land	All land in application owned by Shropshire Council
Demonstrates Value for money	The Town Council maintains these areas to a higher standard than Shropshire Council could and are able

	to adopt a more flexible maintenance regime based on environmental factors
Cannot be used to top up core budgets	This is work on Shropshire Council owned land which may not continue without grant aid

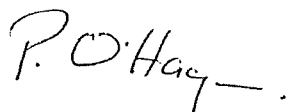
The Town Council has maintained these 3 amenity areas firstly for North Shropshire District Council and latterly Shropshire Council on a goodwill basis for over 3 decades. The areas are heavily used as they are all adjacent to housing estates in where there is a significant proportion of social housing and provide much-needed areas of green space for residents of all ages. The Town Council has long recognised the importance of these areas to residents and has always maintained them to the same level as we do our own recreation ground and play areas. However due to the increasing number of services passed down from Shropshire Council to local councils in recent years the Town Council has been forced to look at all the areas it maintains on a goodwill basis and has come to the decision that it can no longer afford to maintain these areas without some financial support from the landowner Shropshire Council.

Wem Town Council has always tried to work in partnership with Shropshire Council in the past we have taken on or financially supported several services that for financial reasons can no longer be run by the Local Authority including Wem Swimming Pool, Wem Town Hall and Public Toilets. It is therefore extremely disappointing that our request for limited financial support to continue to maintain land owned by Shropshire Council in some of the most deprived areas of the town is turned down in this way.

Therefore, I would request that you review the grant application submitted by the Town Council. I would be grateful if you could let me have a response before 21.2.19 so that the Town Council can consider at its February meeting whether it wishes to cease maintaining The Grove, Cordwell Park and Lowe Hill Road Play Areas on behalf of Shropshire Council from 1.4.19 to enable you to have sufficient time to find a new contractor to undertake this work.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Penny O'Hagan
Town Clerk

Report of meeting held at 13.30 on 2.7.19 at The Grove Play Area with Carmen Ecclestone Street Scene Manager for Shropshire Council to discuss the 3 Shropshire Council owned play areas currently maintained by the Town Council.

Present

Penny O'Hagan, Chris Mellings, Carmen Ecclestone

The Town Clerk explained the background to the application to the Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) which was to provide funds to enable the Town Council to continue to maintain these sites on the same basis as per the informal agreement made in 1986. Chris Mellings provided some background history to the sites and informed Carmen that the Town Council had invested in all the sites over the last 3 decades by providing play equipment and keeping each site maintained to a high standard. Carmen Ecclestone reported that the reason why the Town Council's EMG application was unsuccessful was because there was an existing maintenance agreement in place to maintain the site.

It was explained that due to the changing financial circumstances of the Town Council which is being asked to take on new services and responsibilities from Shropshire Council the Town Council may no longer be able to maintain these sites that without a financial contribution from Shropshire Council.

A discussion took place about whether Shropshire Council would be able to enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Town Council for the grasscutting and hedgecutting of all 3 sites at a fee of £500 per site per annum. However Shropshire Council as landowner would remain responsible for the fences. Carmen agreed to discuss this with her managers and report back to the Town Clerk. She agreed that the post and rail fence at the Grove site needed replacement along with the gate.

Meeting ended 14.00

