

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 24th April 2025
at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: - Cllrs D Parry (Mayor), B Barker, P Broomhall, R Dodd, R Gascoigne, C Granger, D Hill, M Meakin, G Soul, E Towers, P Glover.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

0 members of the public present.

899/25 Mayor's Announcement.

Cllr Parry recorded his thanks to Cllrs Dodd, Granger, Glover and Drummond, for their contribution to the Town Council over the years. He also thanked the Council and Staff for their support during his mayoral year

900/25 To note apologies for absence received.

The following apologies for absence were noted Cllrs Hoffmann and Johnson.
Absent Cllr Drummond.

901/25 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
Cllrs Broomhall and Towers	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	To allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Broomhall	907/25 Director Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	To allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Towers	907/25 Director of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	To allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Soul	916/25 Trustee of Wem Town Hall	To allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Town Hall

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

902/25 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak - None present.

903/25 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 27.3.25.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 27.3.25 and they were duly signed by The Mayor.

904/25

Staff reports

a) To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the progress report.

b) To consider Love Lane Cemetery Report from the Facilities Officer.

RESOLVED:- to note the cemetery report.

905/25

Planning Applications

a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the recent planning decisions.

b) To consider the following planning applications
25/01019/FUL Proposed: Replacement single storey rear extension
Location: 12 Lowe Hill Gardens, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5TY.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as it will enhance the property.

25/00885/FUL Address: 99 High Street, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5DS. Proposal: Proposed installation of a dropped kerb to provide vehicular access.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

25/01220/FUL - The Upstairs Flat, 5D Chapel Street, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Proposal Change of first floor 2 bedroom apartment into 2No large 1bedroom studio apartments.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

906/25

Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Internal Control checks – to note.

It was reported that all checks were up to date and that the RFO was preparing for the 2024-25 accounts closedown along with internal and external audits that are currently in process.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment

RESOLVED:- to approve the following accounts for payments and payments made in advance of the meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
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Shropshire Council	Salaries	£6,774.68	£0.00	£6,774.68	BACSPAY ROLL
	HMRC	£2,908.61	£0.00	£2,908.61	BACS HMRC
	Pensions	£2,138.78	£0.00	£2,138.78	BACS LGPS
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Balance	£159.10	£0.00	£159.10	DD 1.25
Unity Trust Bank	Transaction charges	£15.75	£0.00	£15.75	DD.2.25
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.3.25 - 8.4.25	£70.44	£0.00	£70.44	DD 3.25
EE	Mobile Phones	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	DD 4.25
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges March	£17.40	£0.00	£17.40	DD 5.25
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.3.25 - 31.3.25	£165.57	£8.28	£173.85	DD 6.25
Total DDs / Early Payments				£12,294.61	

Credit Card Payments (for Information only)

Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00	CC 1.25
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Payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
1st Wem Scouts	Grant	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	1.25
NS Wheelers	Grant	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	2.25
Wem ADOS	Grant	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	3.25
Wem Baptist Church	Grant	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	4.25
Wem Brownies	Grant	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	5.25
Wem Cadets	Grant	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	6.25
Carnival Committee	Grant	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	7.25
Jubilee Band	Grant	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	8.25
Sweet Pea Society	Grant	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00	9.25
Wem Tennis Club	Grant	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	10.25
Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery.	Donation	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	11.25
Wem Youth Club	Donation	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	12.25

WSSA	Donation	£21,000.00	£0.00	£21,000.00	13.25
WTH Trust	Funding Agreement	£14,000.00	£0.00	£14,000.00	14.25
NS Print	Stationery	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20	15.25
Garroll Construction	New Toilet Doors	£4,900.00	£980.00	£5,880.00	16.25
Play & Leisure	Playground Equipment	£19,420.50	£3,884.10	£23,304.60	17.25
Hunter Lloyd	Electrical Works	£260.00	£52.00	£312.00	18.25
Highline	SL Repairs March	£59.00	£11.80	£70.80	19.25
Play & Leisure	Wetpour	£1,940.00	£388.00	£2,328.00	20.25
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning 17.3.25 - 30.4.25	£1,623.88	£324.78	£1,948.66	21.25
PG Skips	Cemetery Bins March	£52.50	£10.50	£63.00	22.25
PG Skips	Rec Bins March	£82.20	£16.45	£98.65	23.25
PG Skips	Cardboard Bin March	£27.32	£5.48	£32.80	24.25
RoSPA Playsafety	Inspection	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00	25.25
IDEA Ingham	Swimming Pool ECP	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00	26.25
Screwfix	Cable Ties	£6.66	£1.33	£7.99	27.25
Online Playground	Playground Parts	£66.00	£13.20	£79.20	28.25
Swimming Pool	Grant Q1	£13,750.00	£0.00	£13,750.00	29.25
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	30.25
ISM IT	IT Support April	£340.39	£68.08	£408.47	31.25
Rialtas	Finance Software	£821.00	£164.20	£985.20	32.25
Screwfix	Hardware/work wear	£113.11	£10.63	£123.74	33.25
P O'Hagan	Reimbursement Parking Permit	£266.67	£53.33	£320.00	34.25
Shropshire Council	Office Rent	£3,835.50	£0.00	£3,835.50	35.25
Worknest	HR /HS Support	£3,375.00	£675.00	£4,050.00	36.25
Shropshire Council	Car Park Hire (Christmas Festival)	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00	37.25
Shropshire Council	NDR Cemetery	£140.48	£0.00	£140.48	38.25
ISM IT	Councillors' Tablets	£3,492.60	£698.52	£4,191.12	39.25
Llewellyn-Jenkins	Toilet Painting	£1,660.00	£0.00	£1,660.00	40.25
SALC	Affiliation Fees	£2,266.82	£0.00	£2,266.82	41.25

P O'Hagan	Reimbursement VE Day Flag	£23.98	£0.00	£23.98	42.25
PG Skips	Bin Key	£6.00	£1.20	£7.20	43.25
Shropshire Council	Premises Licence Fee	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	44.25
Millennium Green Trust	Contribution	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	45.25

c) 2025-26 Financial Risk Assessment - to review.
The risk assessment was reviewed and it was

RESOLVED:- and to adopt the updated Finance, Asset and Employment Management Risk Assessment for 2025-26.

907/25 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group – to receive the notes from the meeting on 9.4.25.

RESOLVED:- to receive the notes from the meeting held on 9.4.25.

908/25 Events Liaison Group VE 80 to receive the notes from the meeting on 10.4.25 and consider any recommendations contained within the notes.

RESOLVED:- to receive the notes from the meeting held 10.4.25.

909/25 Play Equipment Painting – to consider quote received.

RESOLVED:-

- to suspend financial regulation 5.8 to permit only 1 quote to be accepted for this work.
- to accept the quote of £3250 submitted by Simon Jenkins to paint all the Town Council owned play equipment in the following locations Cordwell Park, Lowe Hill Gardens, The Grove, The Wheatfields and Trentham Road .

910/25 Creative Kids Competition - to discuss outcome of the grant application to Wem and District Rotary Club and sponsorship offers.
The Clerk reported that the £800 grant application to Wem and District Rotary had been successful and a further £800 had been offered in sponsorship which would cover the cost of running the competition in years 1 and 2.

RESOLVED:- That subject to written confirmation of sponsorship being received for years 1 and 2 the Town Council proceed with this competition for a 2 year period and agree to contribute to any excess payment from the Christmas Lights budget up to a maximum of £400 per year.

911/25 Townoffer.info – to consider supporting the initiative.
A discussion took place on this item and Councillors expressed the view that the costs charged following the end of the trial period would be too high for smaller shops and businesses

RESOLVED:- not to support this initiative at this time.

912/25 Streetlighting Joint energy Agreement – to approve.

RESOLVED:- to approve the quote of £9557.75 submitted by Shropshire Council to provide energy for the Town Council's streetlights during financial year 2025-26.

913/25 Correspondence
Smart Water – We Don't Buy Crime.

RESOLVED:- not to proceed with this initiative due to cost.

914/25 Reports

a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Cllr Soul, provided a report for NS Wheelers and Wem Town Hall
Cllr Broomhall provided a report regarding Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

b) to receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers. A written report from Cllrs Broomhall and Towers was considered.

RESOLVED:- to note the reports received. Thanks were recorded for the work of both Councillors over the past 4 years.

915/25 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of May meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the annual May meeting will be held on 15.5.25 with a shortened agenda dealing with annual business and that an Ordinary Council meeting will be held on 29.5.25.

916/25 Exclusion of Public and Press

To resolve that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public.

Town Council Office – to discuss office working party report and recommendations

The working party report was considered and it was

RESOLVED: that

- the Town Council does not pursue the previously considered leasing option at this time and that Shropshire Council be informed accordingly.
- the Town Clerk be instructed to make formal enquiries regarding the alternative rental option outlined in option 2 of the report to determine: Availability of space, Annual rental cost, Lease duration, Service charges and their coverage
- that, notwithstanding the decision in respect of Option 2 detailed above, the Town Clerk contact Shropshire Council to discuss

extending the current lease and any potential lease terms for such an arrangement.

- **that, once responses have been received from both organisations the Town Clerk, in consultation with the working party, be granted delegated authority to appoint a surveyor to negotiate on behalf of the Council and assess the value for money of both options. A maximum budget of £2,500 allocated for this purpose.**

Meeting ended 19.55

Mayor.....