

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 25th January 2024
at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present:- Councillors, G Soul (Mayor), B Barker, P Broomhall, R Dodd, R Drummond, P Glover, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, D Parry (Deputy Mayor), E Towers.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

One member of the public present.

618/23 To note apologies for absence received.

RESOLVED:- to note the following apologies for absence Cllrs Hoffmann and Gascoigne.

619/23 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.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation Awarded
Cllr Towers and Broomhall	Shropshire Council Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Soul	634/23 Wem Town Hall - Trustee	Dispensation to allow participation but not vote on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Granger	623/23 Planning 24/00119/TPO: 10 Creamore Corner – family member lives next door.	
Cllr Towers	631/23 Wem Area Climate Action member of WACA	To discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Area Climate Forum

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

620/23 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Hall provided an update on the planning application that is to be submitted for employment land on Shawbury Road. He explained that the recent consultation was well attended and that the next stage will be to amend the plans in light of the public's comments. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in around 2 months.

621/23 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on 14th December 2023 and 18th January 2024.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council ordinary meetings held on 14.12.23 and 18.1.24 and they were duly signed by The Mayor as a true record.

- 622/23 Progress report** - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.
The Clerk was asked to ensure that information about the replacement of the recreation ground railings is provided on the council's website so that the public are made aware of the planned works.

RESOLVED:- to note the report and due to the short timescale to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to authorise the tree works in the cemetery extension area and report back to the next meeting.

623/23 Planning Applications

- a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

- b) to consider the following planning applications
24/00119/TPO: 10 Creamore Corner, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5YB
Proposal: To fell 1no. Oak (T1) protected by the Shropshire Council (Fismes Way and Oakley Meadow, Wem) TPO 2015 (SC/00227/15)

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

RESOLVED:- to support the application due to the impact of the trees on the property.

Cllr Granger returned to the room.

624/23 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

- a) Budget report – to consider.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

- b) Internal Control checks – to note. It was reported that all internal control checks were up to date.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

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

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries January HMRC Pensions			6658.34 2387.85 2210.58	PAYROLL BACSHMRC BACSLGPS
EE	Mobile Phones – Dec	26.00	5.20	31.20	DD 60.23
Unity Trust Bank	Cash/Cheque charges	12.00	0.00	12.00	DD 61.23

West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.11.23 – 30.11.23	217.81	10.89	228.70	DD 62.23
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	108.47	21.69	130.16	DD 63.23
Unity Trust Bank	Unpaid inward cheque (1)	6.00	0.00	6.00	DD 64.23
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 7.11.23 – 8.12.23	44.80	0.00	44.80	DD 65.23
EE	Mobile Phones - Jan	26.00	5.20	31.20	DD 66.23
WaterPlus	Allotment Water 23.11.23 – 23.12.23	44.54	8.91	53.45	DD 67.23
Unity Trust Bank	Unpaid inward cheque (2)	6.00	0.00	6.00	DD 68.23
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges Dec	17.54	0.00	17.54	DD 69.23
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.12.23-8.1.24	44.80	0.00	44.80	DD 70.23
Unity Trust Bank	Unpaid inward cheque (3)	6.00	0.00	6.00	DD 71.23
Zephyr	Flags	263.00	52.60	315.60	187.23
Credit card payments for information only					
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	3.00		3.00	CC 11.23

Payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
JEF Scaffolding	Barriers – Christmas Lights	235.00	47.00	282.00	178.23
G Soul	Refreshments – Honorary Townsman	40.00	0.00	40.00	179.23
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	101.68	20.32	122.00	180.23
Shropshire Council	Office rent/service chge 1.1.24 – 31.3.24	3835.50	0.00	3835.50	181.23
A Roberts	Car Parking Nov 23 and Dec 23	17.00	3.40	20.40	182.23
ISM IT	IT Support – Jan	99.99	20.00	119.99	183.23
Healthmatic	Car Park Toilet Cleaning	799.33	159.87	959.20	184.23
Josh Higgins	Christmas Tree Removal	200.00	40.00	240.00	185.23
Evans Welding	Cemetery Railings final payment	6377.95	1275.59	7653.54	186.23
DW Evans	Gravedigging December	305.00	0.00	305.00	188.23
WSSA	Reimbursement	66.46	0.00	66.46	189.23
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning	75.00	0.00	75.00	190.23
Ricoh	Copier Charges	192.18	38.44	230.62	191.23
Sign & poster Ltd	Town Banner	233.00	46.60	279.60	192.23
King's	Cable Ties	5.72	1.14	6.86	300128

625/23 Staffing Committee meeting held 20.12.23 – to note draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to note the draft minutes and approve the recommendation contained within the minutes, except for the change of job title for the Project

and Finance Assistant which will be considered at the next Staffing Committee.

626/23 Finance Committee meeting held 11.1.24 – to note draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to note the draft minutes.

627/23 Cherry Tree Close Lights – to discuss quote for repair works and agree a way forward.

The Clerk explained that it had not been possible to claim on the insurance of the company that had removed the hedge but that the repair works were covered as part of the Town Council's insurance.

RESOLVED:-

- **To make a claim on the Town Council's insurance to cover the cost of reconnecting lights 177, 178 and 162.**
- **To request that Connexus Housing as a goodwill gesture covers the cost of the Town Council's insurance excess for this claim.**

628/23 Town Events

a) 100 years of the RBL 27 April 2024 – to consider request received.

RESOLVED:- to agree in principle to submit a road closure application for the 100 year commemoration of the RBL, subject to the Wem Branch of the Royal British Legion providing the volunteers to manage the road closure on the day itself.

b) D-Day 80 6th June 2024 - to consider whether to participate in the Beacon Lighting to commemorate the event.

RESOLVED:- to participate in the beacon lighting event on 6.6.24 subject to the Events Liaison Group making the necessary arrangements for the event.

629/23 Floral Planters

a) To review watering contract.

RESOLVED:- to approve the contract and authorise it to be advertised.

b) Plant supply - due to time restrictions on ordering of plants to consider delegating authority to the Town Clerk to consider quotes for the supply of plants for the 2024 floral planters.

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Clerk to place the order for hanging basket and floral planters before the next meeting.

630/23 Correspondence

a) Trail Tale – to consider.

RESOLVED:- not to progress this initiative but to ask the Civic Society whether they would like to take on this project.

b) Shropshire Council Budget Consultation.

RESOLVED:- to note the consultation but not comment.

c) Use of WTC Meeting Room as Polling Station.

RESOLVED:- to approve for the use of the Town Council meeting room as a polling station for the duration that the Town Council occupies the room at Talbot House.

631/23 Wem Area Climate Change - To approve location and details of proposed wildflower meadow on Trentham Road Public Open space.

RESOLVED:- to approve the location and details supplied to enable the creation of a Wildflower Meadow on Trentham Road Public Open Space subject to appropriate information signage being installed in the area.

632/23 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council’s representatives to other bodies. Cllr Soul reported on the Town Hall trustee meeting held earlier in the day.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllrs Towers and Broomhall.

633/23 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of February meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the February meeting will take place on 29.2.24.

634/23 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.

A) Town Council Office – For update.

RESOLVED:- To note the update.

Meeting ended 20.00

Mayor.....