

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 29th May 2025
at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: - Cllrs D Parry (Mayor), B Barker (Deputy Mayor), P Broomhall, M Hudson, R Gascoigne, D Hill, M Meakin, G Soul, E Towers, M Hoffmann, P Johnson, B Cotterell, L Gilchrist.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

3 members of the public present.

15/25-29 To note apologies for absence received.

RESOLVED:- that following apology received from George Nash is noted.

16/25-29 Declarations of Acceptance of office – to note that the two councillors co-opted on 15.5.25 had been signed and witnessed prior to the start of the meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the two councillors co-opted on 15.5.25 had signed their declarations of acceptance of office in the presence of the Town Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.

17/25-29 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.

None declared.

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

Dispensation applications were received from Cllr Towers and Broomhall

RESOLVED:- to award a dispensations to

- Cllr Towers to permit him to speak but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Sports and Social Association (WSSA) and speak but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre (WSLC).
- Cllr Broomhall to speak and vote on all items relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

18/25-29 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of Wem Civic Society promoted some projects of the Civic Society and raised concerns about the consultation on proposals for development off Aston Road

RESOLVED:- To suspend the meeting for a period for 15 minutes at 19.10 to permit a representative from Bellway Homes to give a short presentation on the proposed development off Aston Road.

Meeting reconvened at 19.30.

19/25-29 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15.5.25.

RESOLVED:- To approve as a correct record the minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th May 2025 and they were duly signed by The Mayor as a true record.

20/25-29 Council Committees - To appoint councillors onto the following Liaison Groups and Working Party

- Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group – 2 spaces
- Events Liaison Group – 1 space
- CCTV working party - 1 space

RESOLVED:- To appoint the following Councillors onto the Liaison Groups below

- **Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group – Cllr Gilchrist, Cllr Meakin.**
- **Events Liaison Group – Cllr Soul.**
- **CCTV working party - Cllr Meakin.**

21/25-29 Staff reports - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings'

RESOLVED:- To note the progress report.

22/25-29 Planning Applications

a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- To note the planning decisions.

23/25-29 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Budget report – to consider

RESOLVED:- To note the budget report to 29.5.25.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

It was reported that all internal control checks were up to date.

RESOLVED:- To note.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment

RESOLVED:- To approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
D Harper*	Christmas Lights	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	46.25
Screwfix	Sundries	£9.36	£1.87	£11.23	47.25
P O'Hagan	Confidential Shredding	£16.67	£3.33	£20.00	48.25
ISM IT	IT Support	£340.39	£68.08	£408.47	49.25
DANFO*	Toilet Cleaning May	£1,029.24	£205.85	£1,235.09	50.25
PG Skips	Cemetery Bins	£46.64	£9.32	£55.96	51.25
PG Skips	Rec Ground Bins	£73.00	£14.60	£87.60	52.25

PG Skips	Cardboard Bin	£37.90	£7.59	£45.49	53.25
Glasdon	Bench	£631.77	£126.35	£758.12	54.25
Zurich	Insurance	£4,337.56	£0.00	£4,337.56	55.25
Glasdon	Litterbin	£94.50	£18.90	£113.40	56.25
Shrewsbury TC	Plants for planters	£880.93	£176.19	£1,057.12	57.25
A Roberts	Reimbursement (Night Lights)	£8.32	£1.67	£9.99	58.25
MW Medics	Beacon First Aid	£110.00	£22.00	£132.00	59.25
DW Evans	Gravedigging April	£660.00	£0.00	£660.00	60.25
Securitywise	Call out	£98.00	£19.60	£117.60	61.25
Screwfix	Sundries	£38.48	£7.70	£46.18	62.25
Screwfix	Sundries	£53.36	£10.67	£64.03	63.25
WSSA	VAT outstanding	£2,333.00	£0.00	£2,333.00	64.25
J Ralphs	Reimbursement	£9.65	£1.93	£11.58	65.25
W.E.T.	Rec Toilet Sampling	£305.00	£61.00	£366.00	66.25
ICCM	Membership	£105.00	£0.00	£105.00	67.25
County Security	Toilet Lock Repair	£85.00	£17.00	£102.00	68.25
S Durrands*	Year End Closure	£495.00	£0.00	£495.00	69.25
Shropshire Council	SL Energy	£2,389.44	£477.89	£2,867.33	70.25
M Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	71.25
WSSA	Balance of VAT	£467.00		£467.00	72.25
Viking	Stationery	£74.96	£14.99	£89.95	73.25
DANFO	June Toilet Cleaning	£1,029.24	£205.85	£1,235.09	74.25

24/25-29 Christmas Lights

a) Creative Kids competition – to agree criteria for entrants.

RESOLVED:-

- To approve the eligibility criteria that the competition is open to all children of primary school age who either live in Wem or attend St Peter's Primary School.
- That the Town Clerk seeks permission from Shropshire Council to install the winning light design on the Jubilee Square CCTV pole.

b) Additional Festive Lighting Display - to consider report.

A discussion took place on this item

RESOLVED:-

- That the Town Clerk is authorised to place an order for up to 60m of additional MaxiLED festoon lighting along with the supply and installation of catenary wires at a cost not exceeding £1,100 NET.
- That the Council contracts Highline Electrical to supply and install 5 uplighters for trees in the main car park at a cost of £627 for 3 trees on Leek Street and £616 for two further trees in the car park, subject to permission from Shropshire Council.

- **That the Council approves the purchase of 15 replacement 3ft artificial Christmas Trees and string lighting at a cost of £2,175.**
- **That an additional £5,000 be earmarked from general reserves to cover the extra costs related to the recommendations.**

25/25-29 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Stanchion Painting – to consider quotes received.

Cllrs Towers and Broomhall declared an interest in this item although both had a dispensation for matters relating to WSLC

Two quotes were considered as the Clerk reported she had not been able to secure 3 quotes

RESOLVED:-

- **To suspend Financial Regulations to permit only 2 quotes to be considered.**
- **To award the contract to undertake painting and repair works to the swimming pool stanchions to Garroll Construction at a cost of £8900.**

26/25-29 Windows 11 Update – to consider quote received from IT Contractor to dispose of old laptop and change CCTV computer.

RESOLVED:- To approve the quote submitted by ISM-IT to dispose of the old laptop securely and upgrade the CCTV Computer to a Windows 11 compatible model.

27/25-29 Motion Request - to consider motion request received from Cllr Hoffmann.

RESOLVED:- To widen the remit of the office working party to reconsider the Morgan Library as a potential office and meeting room for the Town Council.

28/25-29 Correspondence

a) Time to talk Termly Report – to note

RESOLVED:- To note the report

29/25-29 Reports

a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Directors meeting report submitted by Cllr Broomhall was considered.

Cllr Soul reported on a recent meeting of Wem Town Hall Trustees.

RESOLVED:- To note the reports.

b) to receive a verbal report from Shropshire Councillors.

A verbal report was presented by Alan Holford newly elected Shropshire Councillor which outlined the leadership group at Shropshire Council.

RESOLVED:- To note the report.

30/25-29 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of June meeting.

RESOLVED:- To note that the June meeting will be held on 26.6.25.

31/25-29 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) Insurance Claim – to update.

RESOLVED:- To note

b) To receive any nominations for Honorary Townsmen.

Nominations were received

Meeting ended 20.35

Mayor.....