

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 21st December 2021 at 19.00 in The Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

Present:- Councillor P Broomhall (Mayor), Councillors, R Dodd, R Drummond, A Everett, P Glover, C Granger, D Hill, M Meakin, D Parry, G Soul, E Towers

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

4 members of the public present

119/21 To receive and consider for approval apologies for absence and reasons given.

RESOLVED:-to accept the following apologies for absence Cllr's Hoffmann (work commitment), K Edge (illness), P Johnson (personal).

120/21 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
Cllrs Towers and Broomhall	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 Everett	Item 130/21 use of office by outside organisations as Chairman of NS Wheelers	

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

None received.

121/21 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

The following issues were raised

- The trees adjacent to the Mill Dam footpath are dangerous and have caused damage to a neighbouring property in the recent high winds and the landowner should be forced to do something about the condition of the trees. It was explained that this matter was being dealt with by Shropshire Council and if damage was caused by the trees then those affected would need to raise the matter direct with the landowner.
- A member of the public reported that the traffic lights by the level crossing are in need of straightening.

- They also outlined objections to planning application 21/05426/FUL stating that it will affect up to 9 listed buildings in the conservation area and an ancient scheduled monument. In addition to this the development of the site will result in the loss of green space in the centre of town and could impact on wildlife. Objections relating to access to the site and the impact of extra traffic onto Maunds Corner were also raised.

122/21 Council Minutes.

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

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25.11.21 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

123/21 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

124/21 Planning Applications

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To consider the following planning applications

21/05426/FUL, Conversion and extension of an existing stable block to form 1No two bedroom dwelling and the erection of 1No single storey three bedroom dwelling and formation of vehicular access, Land To The Rear Of 73 High Street Wem Shropshire SY4 5DR

RESOLVED:- to object to the application for the following reasons:

- The proposed development would severely impact on the historic character of this area of Wem.
- The proposed development is in contravention of heritage guidance set within the National Policy Planning Framework. Chapter 16 paragraphs 194-208 refer.
- The proposals will have a negative impact on a designated Scheduled Monument (castle mound) and up to 9 listed buildings all within the Conservation Area.
- The development will cause the loss of green space within the centre of the town which will have a negative impact on wildlife and bio diversity.
- The proposals will result in additional traffic accessing the site at Maunds Corner. There is concern for highway safety at this point as this is an already dangerous section of highway for road users and pedestrians alike.

125/21 Finance and Accounts for Payment

a) Internal Controls – to note that internal checks carried out by The Mayor are up to date.

RESOLVED:- to note.

b) Monthly income expenditure against budget report – to consider.

RESOLVED:- to note the budget report.

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

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
EE	Mobile phone	21.95	4.39	26.34	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	40.22	8.04	48.26	DD
Onecom	Landline	70.16	14.03	84.19	DD
NS Print	Townsmen Certificates	92.00	18.40	110.40	156.21
WME	Electricity Supply	36.05	1.80	37.85	157.21
ISM Ltd	Computer Contract	86.97	17.40	104.37	158.21
Rialtas	Support Licence	387.00	77.40	464.40	159.21
PG Skips	Bin Emptying cemetery and rec	92.24	18.44	110.68	160.21
Edu Sales	PA Hire – Remembrance	80.00	16.00	96.00	161.21
Shropshire Council	Salaries December	9180.73	0.00	9180.73	162.21
Mark Fitton	Window Cleaning	70.00	0.00	70.00	163.21
Highline Electrical	Festive lights: Install/remove	1148.85	229.77	1378.62	164.21
Highline Electrical	Festive lights: Leek St	2339.60	467.92	2807.52	165.21
Highline Electrical	Street light repairs Lowe Hill Rd	240.00	48.00	288.00	166.21
RICOH	Photocopying	165.81	33.16	198.97	167.21
Plantscape	Planter	389.25	77.85	467.10	168.21
SALC	Councillor Training	30.00	0.00	30.00	169.21
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	170.21

126/21 Traffic Working Group meeting 6.12.21 - To consider report on meeting.

Typo corrected in notes to remove the word *both* from the final line on first page of the notes.

Cllr's expressed concern that Shropshire Council did not seem to be keen to find a solution to some of the objections raised by principal stakeholders to the proposed one way system at the meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note the report from the meeting held 6.12.21 and agree that the working group would meet again with Shropshire Council in early 2022.

127/21 Town Hall Liaison Group Meeting 8.12.21– to receive draft notes from this meeting and discuss any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to note the draft notes from this meeting.

128/21 Amenities and Services Committee Meeting 14.12.21- to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED:- to

- Receive the draft minutes from this meeting.
- Approve the recommendation outlined in minutes under item 6a Recreation Ground Railings.
- All other recommendations to be deferred to the January Budget meeting.

129/21 Welcome Back Fund – to consider report.

The Clerk explained that she was still waiting for quotes for the installation of the shed base but it was hoped that all quotes would be finalised in the New Year for works to start before 31.3.22.

RESOLVED:- to note the report and delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy to agree the placing of orders for the works.

130/21 Use of office by outside organisations – to consider requests for use of Town Council office and meeting room.

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

RESOLVED:- to approve the two requests received and to delegate authority to the Clerk to consider any future requests for use of the meeting room on a case by case basis.

Cllr Everett returned to the room.

131/21 Queens Jubilee Celebrations – to consider request from group to agree to take on overall responsibility for the picnic in the park celebrations planned for Saturday 4th June 2022.

RESOLVED:- to approve the request received for the Town Council to take on the overall responsibility for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations subject to the following conditions:

- That any extra insurance premium charged for running the event is covered by the Steering Group or agreed to be the Town Council's financial contribution to the event.
- All stall holders and contractors will be required to supply a risk assessment and provide evidence of public liability.
- That alcohol is not sold at any of the events.

- The Town Clerk reserves the right to veto any activities arranged if it is felt that they would increase the risk of the event or fall outside of the Town Council's legal powers.
- All expenditure on the event must be made according to the Town Councils legal powers and financial regulations.
- The event cannot be sponsored and any funds received will be classed as donations.
- Any expenditure left from the event will be ringfenced for future whole town events.
- Only limited officer time is to be allocated to the management of the event and the bulk of the organisation must be carried out by the steering group.
- Any cash income received must be banked in its entirety and no netting down must take place. All cash collected must be passed to the Town Council and held in accordance with the Town Council's cash handing policy.
- A Town Councillor is nominated to sit on each organising group.

132/21 Wem Economic Forum Relaunch – to receive a report on meeting held on 24.11.21 to discuss the relaunch of Wem Economic Forum.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

133/21 Meeting Procedures if Further Lockdown Measures are introduced – to consider options and review powers delegated to the Clerk if considered appropriate.

RESOLVED:- that in the event of further Covid-19 restrictions being announced making it inadvisable to meet indoors face to face, to delegate authority to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee Chairman to authorise the implementation of the following delegated authority to the Town Clerk as outlined below.

The Town Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council where such decisions cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline.

Any decision made under this delegation can only be made following consultation with members by electronic means or telephone. The Town Clerk will further consult with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the appropriate committee for guidance as necessary.

The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the Council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations.

Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority will cease upon the first face to face or authorised meeting of the Council after the Council meeting at which the delegation was put in place.

134/21 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council’s representatives to other bodies.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllr Broomhall concerning Wem Christmas Lights Festival.

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

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllr’s Towers and Broomhall.

135/21 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.*
None requested

136/21 Dates of future meetings –
a) To note the date and time of January meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the January meeting will be held on 27.1.22 at 19.00.

Meeting ended 20.00

Mayor.....