

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on
Thursday 26th November 2020 at 19.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, R Drummond, K Edge, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, G Soul, E Towers.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

7 Members of the public present, 1 member of the press present

Allan Wilson Chairman of Shropshire Carbon Action Partnership gave a presentation at the start of the meeting on the work of the partnership. He explained why climate change was council business and that local councils needed to encourage communities to work together to achieve this goal by sharing information and best practice. A Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan has been produced by the Carbon Action Partnership in which people are encouraged to pledge to get to zero carbon by 2030.

The following questions were asked

Will the Town Council install electric vehicle charging points in the car park? Response, this is being considered by the Town Council on the Bowensfield Car Park as part of a wider series of carbon saving initiatives but will be subject to a successful grant application.

276/20 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

None received

Absent – Cllr Nash

277/20 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
Cllr Dee and Mellings	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

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011. No applications were received.

278/20 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public raised the following items

- Has there been an update from Shropshire Council following the traffic motion that was passed at the October Town Council meeting? The Clerk reported that she had not received a response to date, but she would contact them again.

- Can the Town Council provide an update on the redevelopment of The White Horse – Cllr Mellings gave a brief update on the current situation. It was suggested that as there is a significant amount of community interest in this building, the public are provided with an update so pressure can be put on those responsible for the building to progress redevelopment as the building is an eyesore. Cllr Mellings agreed to supply the information he was able to share.
- Cllr Granger reported that a member of the public had requested that she alert the Town Council to the fact that on 19th December 2020 it will be the 100 year anniversary of the erection of the War Memorial and could the event be marked in some way.

279/20 Council Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 29th October 2020.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the zoom virtual meeting platform on 29.10.20 be approved as a correct record. Authority was given for them to be signed by the Mayor at a later date.

280/20 Reports

a) Clerks progress Report - to consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Wem SNT Report – to consider report from Wem Safer Neighbourhoods Team Councillors welcomed the report and it was:

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

281/20 Planning Applications**a) Planning Applications for consideration**

i) 20/04630/TCA Development Proposed - Crown reduce by up to 2 metres 4no. Cherry trees, reduce 1no. Crab apple tree back from neighbours by up to 2 metres and crown reduce 1no. Ash by up to 30% within Wem conservation area. Location - 70 High Street, Wem, SY4 5DR

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

ii) 20/04628/TCA Development Proposed - To fell 2No. Lawson Cypress trees within Wem Conservation Area. Location - Sunningdale, 9 Mill Street, Wem, SY4 5ED

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

iii) 20/04517/FUL Development Proposed – To fit 2 solar tube panels to the rear south facing roof. Location – The Garden House, 3 Grove End Court, High Street, SY4 5EN

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

b) Planning Decisions – to consider report.

The Clerk updated on decisions made after the agenda was sent out.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

282/20 Finance and Accounts for Payment

a) Monthly budget report and internal controls – for consideration and to note the completion of the Mayors' financial checks for Aug, Sept and October.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment and payments made prior to meeting under delegated authority (presented at meeting).

RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments.

Payments made prior to meeting under delegated authority

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
EE	Mobile Phone	21.00	4.20	25.20	DD
Talk Talk	Office broadband	19.95	3.99	23.94	DD

Accounts for approval 26.11.20

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Shropshire Council	External Pay Recharge October 2020	8598.35		8598.35	132.20
PG Skips	Skip Emptying October Cemetery & Recreation Ground	88.68	17.76	106.44	133.20
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	17.00		17.00	134.20
Shropshire Pools & Spas	Pipework	2164.00		2164.00	135.20
Town Clerk	November Expenses				136.20
	Land Registry Search	6.00		6.00	
	Climate Emergency Event	20.00		20.00	
	Total	26.00		26.00	
West Mercia energy	October Electricity	78.28	3.91	82.19	137.20
ISM Ltd	Computer Services	174.48	34.90	209.38	138.20
JSL Water Systems Ltd	PPE (Gloves)	8.00	1.60	9.60	139.20
Reaseheath College	Groundsman Tractor Training	550.00		550.00	140.20
Highline Electrical	Christmas Lights Fixings	1138.00	227.60	1365.60	141.20

Waterplus	Charges Public Toilets 28/8/20-7/11/20	102.95		102.95	142.20
Shropshire Council	External Pay Recharge November 2020	8510.03		8510.03	143.20
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning Nov	65.00		65.00	144.20
Education Sales Ltd	Live Streaming and Hire Act of Remembrance	360.00	72.00	432.00	145.20
Shropshire Council	HR Consultancy 1.8.20-31.8.20	1000.00	200.00	1200.00	146.20
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning Oct	829.17	165.83	995.00	147.20
Shropshire Council	Joint Energy Costs October - December 2020	1701.83	340.37	2042.20	148.20
Via Della Emilia Ltd	Tree Works Recreation Ground	570.00	114.00	684.00	149.20
Onecom	Telephone Charges	38.35	7.67	46.02	DD

c) Electricity Supplier – to consider quote received from West Mercia energy to switch to renewable energy supply for public toilets from 1.4.21.

RESOLVED:- to approve the switch to renewable energy supplies from 1.4.21.

283/20 Councillor Vacancy – to consider and vote on applications received for the two Councillor vacancies on the Town Council. Three applications had been received for two vacancies and a vote took place for vacancy one

RESOLVED:- to Co-opt to Duncan Hill onto Wem Town Council.

Following a vote for vacancy two it was

RESOLVED:- to Co-opt Andrew Everett onto Wem Town Council.

284/20 Traffic Measures Working Party – To consider the establishment of (at request of Cllr Drummond).
Cllr Drummond presented this item and explained that he felt that there was a need to develop a partnership approach with Shropshire Council to progress the Highways issues the town was experiencing. Councillors expressed the view that Wem Economic Forum Traffic Working Group was set up for this purpose and had enabled a wider range of people and organisations to have an input and as the terms of reference for the working party have been changed to provide a clearer reporting process via the Town Council there was little need to establish a new group.

RESOLVED:- not to progress at this time.

285/20 Remembrance Commemoration 2021– to consider report produced.
A discussion took place on this matter and standing orders were suspended to allow Mr Hoffman who produced the report to speak on the item.

RESOLVED:-

- **To agree in principal to develop a lamppost poppy project for 2021.**

- **To allocate £300 from the events budget for the poppy and flag purchase.**

286/20 Correspondence

a) Environmental Maintenance Grant - to consider applying.

RESOLVED:- not to pursue an application at this time.

b) Lord Lieutenants Garden Party 8/6/21- to consider nominating attendee.

RESOLVED:- to nominate Claire Glover for her contribution to the food support provided through Wem Store Cupboard Group.

c) The High Sheriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizen Awards 2021.

RESOLVED:- to note.

d) Wem Town Council & Pension Divestment – to consider correspondence on.

RESOLVED:- to write to Shropshire County Pension Fund to request that it divests from fossil fuels and honour the motion passed by Shropshire Council.

287/20 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Written report received from Cllr Mellings who attended the SALC AGM.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllr Mellings.

288/20 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 raised

289/20 Date of next meeting – to note date of December meeting and set date of January Budget meeting (provisional date 21.1.21).

RESOLVED:- to note that the December Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday 17th December at 19.00 on the Zoom virtual meeting platform and that the January Budget meeting will be held at 19.00 on 21.1.21.

290/20 Exclusion of press and public

To resolve: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public and suspend standing orders to enable the Council meeting to continue for 30 minutes past 21.00.

- a) Staffing Review – to consider recommendations from the staffing review working party meeting held 17th November 2020.

RESOLVED:- to approve the recommendations in the report.

- b) Correspondence relating to the White Horse – for consideration.

RESOLVED:- to contact the correspondent confirming the Town Council’s wish for the building to be redeveloped and to request that they liaise with Shropshire Council on this matter as the Town Council does not have any funds for this development at its disposal.

- c) To receive updates on the following items
 - i. Morgan Library.

RESOLVED:- to note the report and approve the Clerk’s recommendations.

- ii. Land Adjacent to Wem Mill.

RESOLVED:- to note the correspondence and suggest that the correspondent seeks professional advice on this matter.

Meeting ended 21.30

Mayor.....