Minutes of an ordinary Town Council Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 29th October 2026 at 7p.m. in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present:- Cllrs B Barker (Mayor), P Broomhall, B Cotterell, L Gilchrist, M Hudson, D Hill, T O'Flaherty, D Parry, G Soul, P Johnson, E Towers, R Gascoigne.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

4 members of the public present.

313/25-29 To note apologies for absence received.
RESOLVED;- to note the apologies received from Mark Hoffmann.

Absent G Nash

314/25-29 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.
The following interests were declared

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers	320a/25-29 WSLC Director.	To discuss but not vote on all matters relating to WSLC.
Cllr Broomhall	320a/25-29 WSLC Director.	To discuss and vote on all matters relating to WSLC.
Cllr Parry	320a/25-29 WSLC Director.	To discuss and not vote on all matters relating to WSLC.
Cllr Cotterell and Towers	326/25-29 WACA members	
Cllr Soul	328/25-29 Aston Road, Road Safety – lives on Aston Road	
Cllr Parry	329/25-29 Wem Town Hall Volunteer	To discuss and vote on all matters relating to Wem Town Hall.
Cllr Soul	329/25-29 Wem Town Hall Trustee	To discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Town Hall.

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

315/25-29 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
A member of the public raised concerns about road safety on Aston Road and the impact that the new development could have on road safety in this area. They also highlighted an ongoing problem with a dangerous pothole on Aston Road that is forcing cars into the middle of the road on a blind bend and urged the Town Council to support their request to Shropshire Council for improvements to the road.

316/25-29 **Council Minutes -** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 24.9.26.

RESOLVED;- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 24.9.26 and they were duly signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

317/25-29 **Reports**

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

RESOLVED;- to note the report.

b) Mayoral Report – to receive report on Mayoral activities over the past month.

RESOLVED;- to note the report.

c) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. The Wem in Bloom group's report was presented and congratulations were recorded for the work of the group following its recent gold award in the Heart of England in Bloom small town category.

RESOLVED;- to note the report from Wem in Bloom.

d) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors for Wem Area.
None received.

318/25-29 **Planning Applications**

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED;- to note the report.

b) Planning Applications – to consider.
26/03828/FUL Development Proposed - Erection of dwelling and formation of new vehicular access Location: - Proposed Residential Dwelling, 40 Mill Street, Wem, , SY4 5EX.

RESOLVED;- not to comment on this application.

c) Report regarding Love Lane Development (Jenkins site) – to consider

RESOLVED;- to

- Approve the removal of the short section of hedge on Town Council land adjoining the former Jenkins Spares site on Love Lane, to facilitate the extension of the proposed tarmac footpath.
- Agree in principle to the installation of the footpath by the developer, at no initial cost to the Town Council subject to the specification and standard of the proposed works being agreed with the Town Clerk before work commences along with written agreement with the developer regarding responsibility for the completed path, including future ownership, maintenance, repairs and liability.

319/25-29 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Budget Report – to consider.

RESOLVED;- to note the budget report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.
It was reported that the 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 except for the payment to Wem Town Hall which will be considered under minute point 325/25-29.

Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries	£7,782.71		£7,782.71	BACS PAYROLL
	HMRC	£3,184.63		£3,184.63	BACS HMRC
	Pensions	£2,182.70		£2,182.70	BACS LGPS
West Mercia Energy	Rec toilets energy 1.9.26 - 30.9.26	£61.38	£3.07	£64.45	DD 66.26
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.9.26 - 30.9.26	£77.31	£3.87	£81.18	DD 67.26
Waterplus	Allotment Water 12.9.26 - 12.10.26	£88.48	£17.70	£106.18	DD 68.26
Waterplus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.9.26 - 8.10.26	£86.34		£86.34	DD 69.26
EE	Mobile Phones	£46.37	£9.27	£55.64	DD 70.26
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Balance	£3.00		£3.00	DD 71.26
ISM IT	IT Support October	£340.39	£68.08	£408.47	DD 72.26
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges September	£17.65		£17.65	DD 73.26
Unity Trust Bank	Transaction charges	£13.00		£13.00	DD 74.26
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	£127.63	£25.53	£153.16	DD 75.26
DANFO	Toilet Cleaning	1029.24	205.85	1235.09	SO7.26
Total DDs / Early Payments				**£15,374.20**	

Credit Card Payments (for Information only)

Lloyds Bank	Monthly Fee	£3.00		£3.00	CC 12.26

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
John Higgins	Diesel tank cover	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00	158.26

Sign & Poster	Events signage	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00	159.26
Mad4Mascots	Mascot Hire	£120.00		£120.00	160.26
A Roberts	Reimbursement	£120.97	£17.82	£138.79	161.26
Sherrats	Lawn Seed	£35.00		£35.00	162.26
M Fitton	Bus Shelters Sept/Oct	£150.00		£150.00	163.26
Wem Town Hall	Payment 3 of 3	£3,000.00		£3,000.00	164.26
PG Skips	Cardboard Bin	£41.30	£8.25	£49.55	165.26
PG Skips	Cemetery Bin	£63.55	£12.70	£76.25	166.26
PG Skips	Rec Bin	£99.45	£19.90	£119.35	167.26
Shropshire Council	Office Rent	£3,835.50		£3,835.50	168.26
Shukers *	Toilet repairs	£1,392.00	£278.40	£1,670.40	169.26
DW Evans	Graves September	£360.00		£360.00	170.26
Via Della Emilia	Tree Works	£1,212.00	£242.40	£1,454.40	171.26
Rarity Emporium	Office Signage	£96.00		£96.00	172.26
RBL**	Wreath	£23.00		£23.00	173.26
Fruitful Deli	Hon Townsman Buffet	£397.50		£397.50	174.26
P O'Hagan	Reimbursement	£93.40		£93.40	175.26
Screwfix	Sundries	£16.95	£3.40	£20.35	176.26
The Wemian*	Advertising	£50.00		£50.00	177.26
The Wemian*	Advertising	£100.00		£100.00	178.26
1st Wem Scouts	Christmas Flyers	£83.97		£83.97	179.26
Total New Payments				**£12,071.46**	

320/25-29 Meetings

a) Events Liaison Group Meeting 30.9.26 - to receive the notes from the meeting to discuss the Remembrance and to consider the event management plan.

RESOLVED;-to receive the notes from the meeting held 30.9.26 and to consider the Event Management Plan for Remembrance Sunday in the confidential section of the meeting.

b) Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group Meeting 14.10.26 - to receive the notes from the meeting and to consider any recommendations contained within the notes.

RESOLVED;- to receive the notes from the meeting held 14.10.26.

c) Finance Committee 15.10.26 - to receive the minutes from the meeting held 15.10.26 and consider any recommendations contained within the notes.

RESOLVED;- to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 15.10.26 and approve the recommendations within the minutes.

321/25-29 Service Support Working Party – to discuss report.

RESOLVED;- that

- **the Council approves the eligibility criteria, community grant application form and assessment guide for grants over £500 recommended by the Service Support Working Group.**
- **the Council approves the approach to considering Urgent Service Pressure funding requests recommended by the Service Support Working Group.**
- **the recommended processes and documentation as detailed by the working party are used to support clear, consistent and transparent decision making.**
- **the responsibility for making recommendations relating to the award of all community grants should be delegated to the Finance Committee.**
- **both the grants process and Urgent Service Pressure Funding Process to be reviewed annually and amended if required.**
- **the size of any grants will subject to any constraints of the overall budget.**

322/25-29 **Town Consultation –** to discuss publishing of results

RESOLVED;- to approve

- **the publication of a headline summary of the survey results on the Council website and to promote this using the town councils facebook page.**
- **the publishing of the full survey results presentation made to Councillors excluding the word cloud page on the Town Council website.**
- **the publishing of the comments summary on the website.**

323/25-29 **Plant Supply Contract for 2027 Floral Planters –** to consider quotes received. The Clerk explained that she had asked four companies to quote but only 1 quote was returned. A discussion took place on the quote and the view was expressed that the plants specified in the quote needed amending.

RESOLVED;- to

- **award the contract to at a cost of £712.40 to Northwood Nurseries**
- **permit Cllr Hudson through the Clerk to request amendments to the type of plants specified in the quote.**

324/25-29 **Wem Store Cupboard** – to consider request for use of Town Council meeting room one day a month to host Citizens Advice Bureaux drop in sessions.

RESOLVED;- to permit the use of the Town Council meeting room at no cost one full day a month for Citizens Advice Bureaux to provide information sessions in Wem Library.

325/25-29 **Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre condition survey** – to consider quotes received.
It was explained that 3 companies had been contacted but that only 2 had returned quotes.

RESOLVED;-

- **to suspend financial regulations to permit only 2 quotes to be considered due to the specialist nature of the work.**
- **to award the contract to Atkins Realis at a cost of £6250.**
- **to allocate funds from general reserves.**

326/25-29 Councillor Motions

Cllr Cotterell - To consider in reference to the reimbursement of Expenses from Climate Conversation Event 17/10/26

Cllr Cotterell and Towers took no part in discussions.

RESOLVED;- to approve the reimbursement of £180 to Wem Area Climate Action to cover the costs of hall hire.

327/25-29 Shropshire Council Consultation

a) Local Transport Plan – to discuss

RESOLVED;- to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to respond to the survey in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

b) Council Tax Support Scheme 2027 onwards - Proposed disregard of child benefit in income calculation

it was reported that the deadline for this consultation was prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED;- not to comment.

328/25-29 Correspondence

a) Aston Road Safety Concerns – to consider correspondence received.

Taken after item 316-25-29

Cllr Soul left the room

RESOLVED;- to

- **support the residents concerns about road safety on Aston Road.**
- **raise the issue with Shropshire Council road safety team and Highways especially the need to repair the hole by the blind bend.**
- **contact the lead of the Council and Shropshire Councillors to express disappointment that the lack of response to the residents email.**

Cllr Soul returned to the room at 19.16

b) Wem to Whitchurch Pipeline Project – to note correspondence received

RESOLVED;- to note the project information.

c) White Horse Grant Application– to discuss

RESOLVED;- to approve the submission of a letter of support in support of the grant application.

329/25-29 Wem Town Hall – to consider report to 30.9.26 as per the funding agreement.

RESOLVED;- to note the report and authorise the release of the third payment as per the funding agreement.

330/25-29 **Dates of future meeting** – to note the date and time of the November ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED;- to note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th November 2026 at 7pm.

331/25-29 **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.

Wem Library correspondence (deferred from 30.4.26) – to consider

RESOLVED;-

- **Not commit to the proposed three-year funding agreement towards the running costs of Wem Library at this time.**
- **To reconsider the matter if further information becomes available which establishes a clear need for financial support.**

Remembrance Sunday Event Management Plan

RESOLVED;- to approve the event management plan.

Meeting ended at 20.06

Mayor……..