

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

187/22 To receive and consider for approval apologies for absence and reasons given.

RESOLVED:-to accept the following apologies and reasons for absence
Cllr Glover, Cllr Edge – unwell Cllr Hoffmann – work commitment

188/22 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 |

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

None received

189/22 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

None present

190/22 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24th February 2022.

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 24.2.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

191/22 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

Councillors asked for an update on the situation regarding The Wemian.

RESOLVED:-to note the report.

192/22 Planning Applications

a) To consider and discuss recent planning decisions.

A discussion took place on the recent planning decision relating to application 20/01156/FUL, concern was expressed that the decision was made under delegated authority .especially as a request had been made by Cllr Towers for it to be considered by the Planning Committee

RESOLVED:- that the Clerk be instructed to write to the leader of Shropshire Council to express dismay that the views of the Town Council and unitary councillors concerning planning applications in Wem did not appear to be taken into consideration when determining applications. Also to invite the leader to a future meeting to discuss the council's concerns.

b) Lowe Hill Road Planning Application – to consider response received from Shropshire Council.

Councillor's expressed disappointment over the reply received on this matter.

RESOLVED:- to note the response.

193/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment (copies to follow).

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

It was reported that all checks for the financial year had been completed.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Monthly income expenditure against budget report – to consider. The monthly budget report was presented and it was

RESOLVED:- to note the 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 | 39.25 | 7.85 | 47.10 | DD |
| B2B Communications | Broadband | 37.48 | 7.50 | 44.98 | DD |
| Shropshire Council | Licensing Application | 100.00 | | 100.00 | 211b.21 |
| Express and Star | Newspaper advert | 154.00 | 30.80 | 184.80 | 211a.21 |
| Onecom | Landline | 31.60 | 6.32 | 37.92 | DD |
| SALC | Training | 30.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 | 211.21 |
| PG Skips | Bin Emptying | 92.24 | 18.44 | 110.68 | 212.21 |
| Heathwood Nurseries | Jubilee Trees | 210.00 | 42.00 | 252.00 | 213.21 |
| ISM IT | IT Support | 86.97 | 17.40 | 104.37 | 214.21 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Forester & Arborist Services Ltd | Tree Survey | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 215.21 |
| Mark Fitton | Bus shelter cleaning | 70.00 | 0.00 | 70.00 | 216.21 |
| SALC | Chairmanship Training | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | 217.21 |
| Severn Trent | Water Supply: Rec | 15.54 | 0.00 | 15.54 | 218.21 |
| West Mercia Energy | Electricity | 120.89 | 6.04 | 126.93 | 219.21 |
| JDH Business Services | Interim Internal Audit Fees | 279.00 | 55.80 | 334.80 | 220.21 |
| Ricoh | Photocopier rental | 129.74 | 25.95 | 155.69 | 221.21 |
| Shropshire Council | Salaries (includes backdated payrise) | 10949.97 | | 10949.97 | 222.21 |
| Shropshire Youth Association | Term 2 | 4000.00 | 800.00 | 4800.00 | 223.21 |
| Via Della Emilia | Tree work from survey | 570.00 | 144.00 | 684.00 | 224.21 |
| Via Della Emilia | Urgent Tree work | 170.00 | 34.00 | 204.00 | 225.21 |
| Healthmatic | March payment | 829.17 | 165.83 | 995.00 | 226.21 |
| P O'Hagan | Reimbursement of payment of key safe | 26.67 | 5.33 | 32.00 | 227.21 |
| Highline | Streetlight repair March | 82.00 | 16.40 | 98.40 | 228.21 |
| Unity Trust | Charges cash and cheque 4 th quarter | 7.20 | | 7.20 | DD |

194/22 Amenities and Services Committee Meeting 3.3.22 – to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations contained within the minutes.

RESOLVED:- to receive the draft minutes from the meeting held on 3.3.22 and to approve the recommendations contained within the minutes.

195/22 Platinum Jubilee Celebration Steering Group meeting 15.3.22

a) to receive report on meeting held 15.3.22.

RESOLVED:- to receive the draft notes from this meeting

b) to discuss payment procedure for purchase of bunting and flags.
A discussion took place on the need to ensure that items purchased for the Jubilee were of a good quality so that they could be reused for future events. Councillors expressed concern over the purchase of hand flags as they were considered to be a single use plastic item which was against the Town Council's climate change commitment

RESOLVED:-

- to suspend financial regulations to allow The Clerk to place order for flags and bunting and pay for them on a personal credit card.

- **to delegate authority to The Clerk following consultation with Cllr Soul and Hoffmann to purchase paper handheld flags, large flags and bunting up to a maximum of £500**

196/22 Wemsbrook Drive Streetlight – to receive report following meeting with resident
It was reported that following the residents offer to contribute towards the moving of the column a site meeting was held to discuss the proposal

RESOLVED:- that

- **in light of the new proposal to suspend standing orders to allow this matter to be reconsidered by the Town Council.**
- **the Town Council agrees to relocate the lighting column to the residents preferred location, subject to the resident agreeing to pay £500 in advance towards the additional excavation and cabling works required.**
- **the resident will be refunded the balance if the additional excavation and cabling works cost less than £500.**

197/22 Health and Safety Contract – to consider quotes received.
Two quotes were considered and it was

RESOLVED:- to award the contract for Health and Safety Support for 2022-23 to Shropshire Council.

198/22 Wem Climate Change Action Group – to consider request received relating to the creation of a wild flower zone at The Wheatfields Public Open Space

RESOLVED:- to allow Wem Climate change Action Group to create the a Wild Flower Zone on a small section of grass between the access path and the boundary with Pantulf Road and to review this request in 1 year.

199/22 Consultations

a) Street trading consultation – to discuss.

RESOLVED:- to comment that the Town Council is not in a position to adopt the street trading function from Shropshire Council.

b) Car Park Charges consultation – for consideration.

Concern was expressed over the cost increases particularly the cost of the new annual charges and the impact that the increases will have on residents. The Clerk was asked to make the manager of Wem Co-op aware of the consultation.

RESOLVED:-

- **to request that the car park band for Wem is reviewed and Wem Car Parks are reclassified as band 7 the same as Broseley and Craven Arms.**
- **To express concern over the impact the increase in prices will have on the community especially as the percentage increase of 30% is significantly above the cost of inflation.**

200/22 Correspondence

a) HSBC in the community.

The Clerk explained that she had already forwarded the request onto Wem Town Hall and a session had been booked.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Request to use Town Crest.

RESOLVED:- to approve the use of the crest by United Services Club Bowling Team for use on club T Shirts.

201/22 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. – no written reports received.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers. Cllr Towers circulated the Unitary Councillor report

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

202/22 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.*

203/22 Dates of future meetings –

a) To note the date and time of April meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the April meeting will take place on Thursday 28th April and that the Annual Town meeting will be held on 21.4.22

204/22 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) Office lease

The draft lease was considered and the question was asked why the existing licence could not be extended. Some concerns over clauses in the draft lease were discussed.

RESOLVED:- to request that The Clerk raises the points discussed with Shropshire Council and report back to the next meeting.

b) NJC Pay Agreement 2021-22

RESOLVED:- to note the pay award and approve its implementation backdated to 1.4.21

c) Whitchurch Town Council – to consider Clerk’s verbal report.
The Clerk reported that a date had not been set to meet with Whitchurch Town Council to discuss the work involved so had nothing further to report. It was explained that due to staffing shortages at the Town Council and the year end workload there was no spare capacity to offer support.

RESOLVED:- not to proceed with this matter

Meeting ended at 20.05