

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on
Friday 5th March 2021 at 14.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, A Everett, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, G Soul, E Towers, G Nash

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk) 4 members of the public present

351/21 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

RESOLVED:- to accept the following apology for absence Cllr Drummond
Absent Cllr Edge

352/21 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
Cllr Mellings and Dee	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.

353/21 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 concerns about the planning application for the North West Relief Road. Their primary objection to the application was the potential effect it would have on traffic travelling towards Wem from the new road. It was stated that the application indicates that there will be a 25% increase in traffic on the A528 and it is anticipated that construction traffic will use this route during the construction of the road. The Town Council were urged to object to the application on the grounds that it was unnecessary and could have a huge impact on the town and its infrastructure.

354/21 Millfields Land - to discuss the future of the area known as "Millfields" and the Town Council's response.

Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public to speak on this matter.

A member of the public outlined that he had been in correspondence with the current owners and was seeking advice. It was reported that the auctioneer had been contacted to request that further information about the planning history on the site was made available to potential purchasers.

A member of the public pointed out that the description of the land was confusing and it downplayed the amount of recreational use of the land. It was explained that the land had been used for more than just dog walking and it has been used for informal recreation, including picnics, meetings, fundraising events. Several Councillors provided information of how the land had been used for informal recreation dating back decades.

A member of Wem Climate Change Group outlined the asset of Community Value Application he had drafted for consideration by the Town Council. They stated that there could be an opportunity to apply for a Heritage Lottery Grant to fund the purchase of the land.

Standing orders were restored and following a discussion it was:

RESOLVED:-

- **To submit an asset of Community Value Application to Shropshire Council for the area known as The Millfields.**
- **That the Town Council agrees to work with representatives from Wem Climate Change Group to consider the submission of a village green application for this site subject to evidence being available.**
- **That the Town Council works in partnership with Wem Climate Change Group to explore whether there is evidence to claim public rights of way across the site.**
- **That the Town Clerk be instructed to contact the auctioneer to make them aware of the potentially misleading sale particulars, as the land is not grassland it is wetland and falls into flood zone 2. Also the land is not used for dog walking occasionally but is a very well used area of the town used by residents for dog walking and informal recreation daily.**

355/21 North West Relief Road - To consider the Impact of the North West Relief Road proposed by Shropshire Council upon the A528/ B5476 route east of the roundabout at the northern end of the Battlefield Link Road. Planning Application [21/00924/EIA North West Relief Road scheme. comprising - construction of 6.9km single carriageway \(7.3m wide\) road; severance of local roads and footpaths; provision of combined footway/cycleway; erection of three bridged structures over carriageway; diversion of existing bridleway/footpath via an underpass; climbing lane on westbound approach; 670m long viaduct; bridge over railway; two flood storage areas; provision of two new roundabout junctions and improvements to two existing roundabouts; associated traffic calming measures, landscaping and drainage schemes | Street Record Welshpool Road Bicton Heath Shrewsbury Shropshire](#)

The Clerk explained that the application was now live and the deadline for comments is 27.4.21. A discussion took place on this item, Councillors expressed the view that as there were over 600 planning documents to view more time was needed to consider the application. Concerns over an increasing amount of traffic going through the town were raised.

RESOLVED:- that Cllr Mellings will ask Matt Johnson from Shropshire Council to give a briefing to Councillors on the application prior to the Town Council holding a Planning Committee meeting to discuss the Town Council's formal response to the application.