

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Wem Town Council held at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem on Tuesday 16th January 2018

Present:- Councillor E Towers (Mayor) Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dodd, P Glover, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray, G Nash.
Mrs P O’Hagan (Town Clerk)

Mrs Penny O’Hagan (Town Clerk).

1 member of the public present.

157/18 **To Receive Apologies for absence.**

Resolved:- to accept the following apologies for absence
P Dee, C Shingler, C Granger, P White

158/18 **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Interests of bias or pre-determination.**
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.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Mellings	<p>Item 160a/18 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre a disclosable pecuniary interest as a director of WSLC. Millennium Green - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee Item 160b/18 Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Management Committee Item 162/18 Wem Jubilee Band – Bias interest in the application for funding as Vice President.</p> <p>Cllr Mellings also declared that he acted as the Independent Auditor for The Carnival Committee and Christmas Lights Committee.</p>	Councillor allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSLC
Cllr Towers	<p>Item 159b/18 Allotments – Bias interest in allotment fees as wife is an allotment holder. Item 160a/18 The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee. Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre - disclosable pecuniary interest as a Trustee Item 160b/18 Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Executive Committee Item 162/18</p>	Councillor allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSLC

	<p>Wem Baptist Church - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of that Church.</p> <p>Wem Jubilee Band Bias interest in the application for funding as Vice President.</p>	
Cllr Murray	<p>Item 160a/18 Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 162/18 Wem Scout and Guide HQ - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the committee.</p>	
Cllr Meakin	<p>Item 160a/18 Wem Town Hall Community Trust - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee.</p> <p>Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee</p> <p>Item 160b/18 Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Item 162/18 Wem Carnival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p>	
Cllr Dodd	<p>Item 159b/18 Allotments – Bias interest in allotment fees as her husband is an allotment holder.</p> <p>Item 160a/18 Wem Town Hall Community Trust - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee</p> <p>The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee</p>	
Cllr Broomhall	<p>160a/18 Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p>	
Cllr Moyse	<p>Item 160a/18 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee.</p> <p>Millennium Green - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee.</p> <p>Item 162/18 Welcome to Wem - Bias interest in the application for funding as chairman of the committee.</p>	

Cllr Johnson	<p>Item 160b/18 WSSA - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Item 162/18 Wem Carnival - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Wem Scout and Guide HQ - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p>	
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b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.

The following Councillors applied for a dispensation under item 161/18 Town Council precept (*Item take prior to item 2a*)

E Towers (Mayor) Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dodd, P Glover, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray.

Resolved:- to award a dispensation to allow the following Councillors E Towers, P Broomhall, P Dodd, P Glover, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray to discuss and vote on the annual precept.

159/18 **Fees and Charges for 2018-19** - to review the following charges as per recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee.

a) Love Lane Cemetery – Interment and Memorial fees.

Resolved:- to set the charges for 2018-19 to the following amounts

Plot Purchase and Interment Fees	2018-19
A child under the age of 1 month at death	£20
A child under the age of 12 at death	£60
Purchase of plot for persons exceeding 12 years at death	£600
Interment Fee (for each interment over 12 years of age)	£275
Interment of ashes in existing grave	£150
Memorial Fee for the erection of a Headstone	
To a height not exceeding 3 feet	£300
In excess of 3 feet but not exceeding 3ft 6inches high	£800
Additional Inscription	£30
Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial	£30
Renewal of Exclusive Right of Burial prior to expiration	
For a period not exceeding 25 years from the date of expiration of existing rights	Half plot purchase fee at time of renewal

b) Love Lane Allotments – Annual rents

Cllr Dodd and Cllr Towers left the room Cllr Glover took the chair.

Resolved:- to set the rental fees for 2019-20 to the following amounts

Plot Size.	Rent 2019-20
Full Plots	£38
Three quarter size plot	£28.50
Half plots	£19

Quarter plots	£10
Non shaded Plots on Cemetery side (26,27,28)	£26
Shaded plots (plots 1A, 30,31,32)	£23

160/18 **2018-19 Budget**

a) To consider contribution requests above £1000 received from organisations running services or facilities within the Town.

Resolved:- to approve the following contribution

RECEIVED FROM	Award
Cllr Dodd, Meakin and Cllr Towers left the room and Cllr Glover took the chair. Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery	£1700
Cllr Mellings and Cllr Moyse left the room Wem Millennium Green	£1700
Cllr Meakin and Cllr Dodd left the room. Wem Town Hall	£22000 and to approve the underwriting of any losses up to £5500 on the following condition. A minimum of 4 meetings per year are held between representatives of the Town Council and Town Hall Staff / trustees to update the Town Council on the financial performance of the Town Hall and to improve communication between the organisations.
Cllrs Broomhall, Murray, Meakin left the room. Wem Christmas Lights & Festival Committee	£1000
Cllrs Mellings, Moyse, Towers left the room and Cllr Glover took the chair. Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre	£58000
Wem Youth Centre	£1500

b) To consider the Town Council budget for 2018-2019

Each budget heading was discussed and the following decisions made

Lighting

Councillors were made aware of reduced energy charges due to more LED lights being installed in the Town but there was still a need to continue with replacement programme for the concrete columns.

Resolved:-to approve that the Public Lighting Budget be set at £32666

Cemetery

It was reported that this budget included provision to finish the wall and that there was no other anticipated additional expenditure on the cemetery during 2018-19.

Resolved:-to approve that the Burial Ground Budget be set at £5770.

Allotments

The Clerk outlined the need to increase the budget to cover water charges and work to level paths.

Resolved:- to approve that the Allotments Budget be set at £850

Administration

The Clerk outlined that the recommended increase in the administration budget was due to the need to make provision for the services of a Data Protection Office which could be developed through in house training or through outsourcing the provision.

A discussion took place on the Mayors allowance as it had not been raised for a number of years following a discussion it was

Resolved:-

To maintain the Mayor's allowance at £1500 and to increase the hospitality allowance to £750.

That the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee be asked to review procedures for how the Mayor's Allowance is paid and what the hospitality allowance can be spent on and to draft a policy for consideration at the April meeting of the Town Council.

Resolved:-to approve that the Administration Budget is set at £25400

Contributions

Other than the contributions agreed under item 160a/18 a discussion took place on the need to allocate funds for Wem Economic Forum and for the awarding of small grants.

Resolved:- to approve the contributions budget of £10800with £5000 being allocated for grant awards and £1000 allocated for Wem Economic Forum.

Recreation

Cllrs Mellings, Towers, Meakin and Johnson took no part in discussions or voting concerning the Wem Sports and Social Association contribution.

It was noted that Wem Sports and Social Association had requested an increase on the annual contribution by £2000 to cover legal fees associated with the constitution works. It was reported that the tree works budget had increased as a tree survey was due on 2018 and it was anticipated that additional works may arise from the survey.

Resolved:-to approve the recreation budget at £24400.

Swimming Pool

In addition to the contribution agreed for Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre under item 160a/18 it was reported that the only anticipated increase was due to insurance costs which had increased in the current financial year.

Resolved:-to approve the swimming pool budget of £67300.

Staffing.

The Clerk outlined the reasons behind the increase of the staffing budget.

Resolved:- To approve that Staffing budget is set at £85094

Cllr Expenses

It was reported that in order to enable the Town Council to implement its training strategy there would be a need to increase the budget allocation for training to £1000.

Resolved:-. To approve that the Cllr Expenses budget is set at £1075

Toilets.

Resolved:-. To approve that Public Toilets budget is maintained at £13550

Bus Shelters

It was reported that a slight increase is needed due to increased cleaning costs.

Resolved:-To approve that the bus shelter budget is set at £1000

Miscellaneous

Floral Planters

It was reported that there would be an anticipated increase in cost of plants and compost due to the need to plant up 2 tiered planters however this should be off set by the reduction in lease costs.

Resolved:- To maintain the budget for floral planters at £3500.

CCTV

Resolved:- To approve that the CCTV budget is set at £3000

Service Transformation

The Clerk outlined that the funds allocated under this budget heading were for the town Council to carry out specialist works associated with the development of new services / facilities in the town – e.g. the reopening the Old Toilet Block on the recreation ground. A discussion took place on the need to rename this budget heading so funds could also be allocated from it for smaller Town projects that were not necessarily services.

Resolved:-to rename budget heading as Town Transformation and to allocate a budget of £15032 to this budget heading.

Reserves

The Clerk reported that due to the large amount of expenditure in 2017-18 from the reserves it was recommended that the Council should consider budgeting an amount each year in the short term to replace funds taken out of reserves for capital projects to ensure that an adequate level of reserves is maintained for future urgent works.

Resolved:-to allocate £4000 from the budget to be returned to the Town Council's reserves.

Once the expenditure budget had been agreed it was

Resolved:-to adopt the attached budget for 2018/ 2019

161/18 **Town Council Precept** - To agree the Town Council precept for 2018-19.

Resolved:-to set the annual precept for 2018/19 at £302767

162/18 **Town Council Community Grants**

a) To consider Community Grant Applications received from local groups

Resolved:- to make the following grant awards .

Applicant	Approved
Wem Branch Shropshire Army Cadet Force League	300
Cllr Meakin and Cllr Johnson left room Wem Carnival Committee	500
Eckford Sweet Pea Society	750
Cllr Murray and Cllr Johnson left room Wem Scout and Guide HQ	250
1st Wem Scout Group	500
NS Wheelers	1000
Mellings and Towers left the room and Cllr Glover took the chair. Wem Jubilee Band	300
Cllr Towers left the room and Cllr Glover took the chair. Wem Baptist Holiday Bible Club	200
Cllr Moyse left the room Welcome to Wem Community Group	100
Wem Albion Bowling Club	Refused due to the application being retrospective

It was requested that the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee undertake a review of the Town Council's grant policy during 2018.

Meeting ended 21.15

Town Mayor.....