

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance & Corporate Governance Committee held on Friday 5th December 2025 at 10.00am in the Council Meeting Room, Wem Library.

Present Councillors: B Barker (Chair), P Broomhall, G Soul, E Towers, D Parry.
Mrs A Roberts (Responsible Finance Officer)

1. **Apologies** - to receive any apologies and reasons for absence.

The following apologies were noted:

Councillors: L Gilchrist, R Gascoigne, M Hoffmann, D Hill, M Meakin

2. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.

None declared

b) To consider any applications for dispensation.

None received.

3. **Committee Minutes** - to approve as a correct record the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Corporate Governance Committee held on 24.10.25.

Resolved:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Corporate Governance Committee held on 24.10.25 and they were duly signed by the chairman.

4 **Cyber Security** - to nominate a Councillor to lead on cyber oversight and data security.

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Barker to lead on cyber oversight and data security

5 **Future Proofing Local Services** – to consider recommendations to Full Council for new budget allocations.

Resolved: to recommend that a town-wide consultation on local services to be carried out during 2026-27 is approved by full council.

Resolved: to recommend an allocation of £30,000, to be taken from Reserves, in the 2026-27 budget to allow the Council to consider future proofing local services.

6 **2026-27 Budget**

a. To discuss contribution requests received from Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre, Wem Sports & Social Association and Wem Town Hall Trust.

Contribution requests were received from WSLC and WSSA.

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 budget includes an allocation of £75,000 for Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre, with Town Council staff support for and governance, and that WSLC is included in the 2026-27 town-wide consultation.

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 budget includes an allocation of £21,735 for Wem Sports and Social Association.

Resolved: To defer discussion on a Wem Town Hall Trust donation to the next Full Council Meeting, subject to a request being received.

b. Budget Recommendations

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Public Lighting budget is set at £59,720

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Burial Ground budget is set at £18,036 including £5000 earmarked reserves for roadway repairs and that any cemetery income above the £18,000 budget (as at 31.3.26) is also set aside for this purpose.

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Allotments budget is set at £1,785

Resolved: To recommend that £5,000 is set aside in an Earmarked Reserve for the purchase and installation of a pendulum swing, and the Council commit to allocating an additional £5,000 to the fund each year until sufficient monies are available to allow the scheme to proceed - the scheme to proceed earlier in the event additional funding becomes available; and that the 2026-27 Recreation budget is set at £49,256

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Public Toilets budget is set at £22,108

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Bus Shelters budget is set at £1,863

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Floral Display budget is set at £6,210

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 CCTV budget is set at £6,210

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Amenities budget is set at £165,187

Resolved: To recommend that the 2026-27 Administration and Councillor Expenses budget is set at £56,385

7 Debtors - to note

Resolved: to note the verbal report.

8 Date and time of next meeting – to note.

Resolved:- to note that the next meeting will be held on 16th January 2026 at 10.00.

Meeting ended 11.17 am

Chairman.....