

Report of a Meeting between Representatives of Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 10.30 in Wem Town Hall.

Present:-

Wem Town Council - Cllrs C Granger (Chairman), G Soul, R Dodd, D Parry, E Towers – representatives from Town Council Market Working Party.

Wem Town Hall - R Horner, P King, J Dinsdale, R Reeves.

P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

- 1 Apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Broomhall and Hill
- 2 To approve as a correct record the notes of a meeting of this Liaison Group held on 27.7.22

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27.7.22 and they were duly signed as a true record.

- 3 To receive an activities and financial report from the representatives of the Trust
Rose Horner Director of the Town Hall Trust presented her report and accounts (attached to the notes).
A discussion took place on the importance of The Wemian and how it is missed by residents. Cllr Towers explained that he is keen to find a new editor.
The accounts were presented by Mr Reeves who explained that a loss of £1100 is predicted for the year end to 31.3.23 which is more positive than anticipated as Shropshire Council's contribution has been received.
However, income from the programme is much reduced as there has not been a significant return by the public to films and live events post covid. In addition to this staff costs are under budget due to the difficulties recruiting staff to the vacant roles. A question was asked about energy costs and it was explained that the electricity contract still had another year to run so the increase in prices had not had an impact yet.
- 4 Wem Market – to discuss the Market Vision submitted by Wem Town Hall Trust.
The Trust's Director presented the market vision report and stated that one of the key visions would be for the markets to have a better presence in the town. She explained that one way to improve this would be to improve the branding of the markets to give each market its own identity e.g. Wem Jubilee Market and Town Hall Market.
A question was asked about the timescales included in the vision document which seemed excessive and the response received was that in order to implement the vision properly then sufficient time would be needed. The Trust's Director stated that the Town Hall was committed to inject £3000 of its own funds to improve the market in the first year of the agreement.

Questions were asked about what would happen if the Town Council took over the running of the market. The Trust's Director presented a breakdown of the weekly charges that were proposed (copy attached) and stated that as well as a weekly charge of £150 if the Town Council were to run the market then a staff member from the Town Council would need to be present from 8.00 till 13.00. The Clerk and Councillors present expressed concern about the conditions that would be placed on the Town Council and the fees that the Town Hall were proposing to charge on a weekly basis as they felt that this would make the holding of a weekly indoor market unviable to anyone except the Town Hall Trust..

The Director of the Town Hall Trust then proposed an alternative option which would be that the Town Hall Trust continue to run the indoor market but that the Town Council could run the outdoor market. As this was not included in the original proposal Councillors requested a detailed breakdown of what the Trust was proposing by the 13.12.22 so that the Town Council could include this in their discussions on the 15.12.22.

- 5 To consider any other issues raised.
None