

**Wem Town Hall Trust Liaison Group Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 3.00pm**

Record of meeting between representatives from Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust in Wem Town Hall.

**Present**

**Wem Town Council:** Cllrs David Parry (Mayor), Geoff Soul, Rachel Gascoigne, Matt Hudson, Barbara Cotterell, Peter Broomhall, Robert Barker

**Wem Town Hall Community Trust:** John Dinsdale (Chair), Sharon Angus-Crawshaw, Peter Jones

Noted resolution passed by Wem Town Council on 23.01.25 as follows: **836/25 - Further Resolved that future meetings of the Town Hall Trust Liaison Group should be held with only trustees and Councillors present.**

- 1) Election of Group Chairman - Geoff Soul was appointed Chair.  
Sharon Angus-Crawshaw to record the meeting.
- 2) Apologies for Absence – Huw Edwards (WTHCT)
- 3) Approve record of meeting held on 03.12.24 – agreed and copy signed for Wem Town Council records.
- 4) Q1 Report from WTHCT – This had been received by Wem Town Council. The meeting reviewed the contents and were happy with the format and contents.
- 5) Possible relocation of WTC to Wem Town Hall
  - a. David Parry outlined the options for the Town Council and stated that currently the preferred location was the Town Hall.
  - b. WTC will be seeking independent advice regarding rental charges etc
  - c. Geoff Soul outlined the challenges for WTHCT in regard to the full repairing lease with Shropshire Council and Service Level Agreement with PSG which has resulted in some very high and unpredictable costs for the Trust in recent years. A meeting is planned with Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance (including Asset Management) to discuss the lease and WTH costs.
  - d. Meeting resolved to recommend to Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust that a Joint Working Group be formed - to look in depth at all considerations regarding relocation, and to bring back any recommendations/reports to their respective bodies so that decisions can be agreed. It is proposed that the Working Group will consist of 3 councillors and 3 trustees, plus the Clerk to the Council and the Wem Town Hall Manager. To be quorate meetings should have at least 2 councillors and 2 trustees in attendance. It is further recommended that Geoff Soul, due to his unique position as both Councillor and Trustee, would act in an ex-officio

position as the non-voting Chair of the Group. The Working Group recommendation is subject to agreement by both Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust.

- e. The function of the Trust Liaison Group was debated and it was agreed that it is the mechanism to review the funding agreement and reports. However, the Working Group may subsume the Liaison Group for the time being – all present are keen to progress as soon as possible. The Chair will ask for councillors and trustees to nominate a note taker at each meeting.

6) Wem Town Hall Funding Agreement post 31.03.26

- a. WTHCT members clarified that the expectation of the Trust is that the grant funding would be separate from any rental costs.
- b. It was noted that WTHCT will need to present a strong case for future grant funding to Wem Town Council in November 25, so the request can be considered during budget setting.

7) Any Other Issues

- a. Should it be determined that Wem Town Council will not relocate into the Town Hall, WTHCT members advised the meeting that they would seek to exploit all available spaces in the building and market more effectively to alternative rental prospects.
- b. Trust Liaison Group Meetings – the meeting was asked to rescind the decision to exclude officers from attending meetings. This was put to the vote with 2 in agreement and 7 not in agreement to rescind. The current arrangement will therefore stand but it was agreed to keep under review.

8) Date of Next Trust Liaison Group Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 3.30pm in Wem Town Hall.