

Report of a Meeting between Representatives of Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust held on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 14.00 in Wem Town Hall.

Present:-

Wem Town Council - Cllrs Mrs C Granger (Chairman), Cllr Everett, Cllr Dodd, Cllr Broomhall
Wem Town Hall - R Reeves, R Stokes, R Horner
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following apologies for absence

Cllr Everett

Cllr Soul absent

2. To approve as a correct record the notes of a meeting of this Liaison Group held on 21st July 2021.

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21.7.21 and the were duly signed as a true record.

3. To receive an activities and financial report from the representatives of the Trust. Rose distributed the activity report (attached). She explained that events continue to be affected by Covid, live events are well supported but other events have not fared as well. Audience numbers are still capped and events continue to have an element of social distancing which has been appreciated by customers and this will go on till March.

A discussion took place over the recent Christmas event which was a successful evening for all involved. It was reported that the Saturday market was supported to a lesser extent but was still worth doing and would hopefully be repeated next year.

Mr Reeves presented the financial report and explained that they were estimating a £12000 loss at year end. He explained that there were also concerns about the age of the building and some of its equipment which may need replacement in the future.

4. Wem Market – to receive progress report on.

Rose reported on progress on the Market under her general report.

5. To consider any other issues raised.

Wem Economic Forum – Welcome Back Fund project was explained

Concern was expressed about the reduction of the Town Hall Grant as it would be a backward step to the core funding of the project.

Town Council Contribution – disappointment was expressed by representatives from the Town Hall at the reduction in the Town Council's contribution over the next three years and a request was made for it to be renegotiated. It was explained that the agreement and contribution amount had been agreed by full council and could not be renegotiated. Members stated that the decision to reduce the contribution had been a difficult one, but it was due to many factors including an unwillingness to place further burden on council tax payers and the pressing need to make savings

21.12.21

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so that funds can be directed to upgrade some of the Town Council's own assets including play equipment and street lighting. It was suggested that if the Town Hall found themselves in significant need of additional funds, then a separate request could be made for additional support to the Town Council for consideration.

Meeting ended 15.45