

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wem Urban held on Thursday 9th May 2019 at 7 p.m in The Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:-Councillor C Granger (Town Mayor) and 20 members of the public.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

The Mayor welcomed all present and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

1. To receive a presentation from Janice Horton, Service Manager, The Children's Society on the work of the BEAM Shropshire project. BEAM works in local communities by running drop in sessions which provide advice, signposting and support relating to mental and emotional wellbeing to young people under 25.

Janice gave a presentation on the background and work of the organisation (copy attached). Several questions were asked about how the sessions operated and a discussion took place on whether there was a need for a service of this nature in Wem. Janice provided some information on numbers using the Shrewsbury Service and reported that several young people travelled from the Wem area to the drop ins. It was suggested that a North Shropshire Project could be developed with the other market towns to provide a BEAM service locally for young people and it was;

RESOLVED:- that Wem Town Council considers supporting the establishment of a BEAM Mental Health drop in session for young people under 25 in the town of Wem and to work with other Towns in North Shropshire to achieve this.

2. To hear presentations from the following Youth Groups

Wem ADOS - Margaret Simmons reported on the work of Wem ADOS, she explained that the organisation will have been running for 100 years this year. The youth section welcomes all ages and abilities and a small charge of £2.50 per session is made. The youth wing of the organisation as well as providing theatre and production skills aims to build the confidence of the young people who attend which can then be used in later life. The group has won a number of awards and the organisation is run by volunteers.

Wem Jubilee Training Band – one of the volunteers from the band outlined the history of the band. The training band section offers opportunities for anybody from the age of 8 upwards to learn to play a brass instrument. It allows young people to express themselves through music at a low weekly cost. The training band has grown over the last 2 years and has represented the town across the county. The band is run by volunteers and the weekly contributions fund the purchase of music and instruments. Rehearsals are on Monday night at 18.30 at Thomas Adams School in the band room.

Wem Scouts – Sue Wilton-Morgan from Wem Scouts presented the work of the organisation of which over 100 boys and girls from 6 -18 are part of. Whilst there is a small charge for attending there are also a number of assisted places for those members who are not able to afford the fee. She outlined the purpose of the organisation and explained that they carry out a large amount of work in the community from a young age, team work is at the heart of the organisations ethos. The organisation is run by volunteers and as many as possible are needed to make the organisation run well.

Wem Youth Club – Sue Challis and Pauline Dee Co Chairman of Wem Youth Club outlined the changes in the youth club over the past few years and explained that the club will have been running 50 years in 2020. The Club is affiliated to Shropshire Youth Association with funding from Shropshire Council and Wem Town Council which goes towards the employment of a youth worker. Significant support also comes from local people as well which is invaluable to the running of the club. The Club currently has a junior and senior section and regularly sees about 50 children a week. Trips are also run which are subsidised from fundraising as a significant number of young people are from families who are stretched financially. Recently a cooking club has been created and a regular working party goes to the incredible edible plot by the Jubilee Square. The cooking club is teaching young people to cook on a budget and works with café's in the town so the children can learn in a professional kitchen. This project will end with a celebration dinner for the children to cook a meal and serve it to funders.

Wem Town Hall – Acting Manager of Wem Town Hall reported on a new project that has developed from Wem into Work. She explained that the Town Hall has received funding to develop a project aimed at 15 – 24 year olds with the focus of engaging with young people to prevent them from becoming NEETS (not in education, employment or training). This service will be for young people living in the Wem area.

3.To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2018.

RESOLVED :- to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17.5.18 and they were duly signed as a true record.

4.To consider any Parish matter

A member of the public reported that she had handed in 70 objection letters to Shropshire Council in protest to the proposed cuts to the local bus services. She explained that the bus service is vital to local people and well used. A discussion took place on how the meeting could object to the proposals. It was explained that the Town Council had already submitted a lengthy objection to the proposals.

RESOLVED:- that the members of the Town meeting object to the proposed changes to the bus service on the basis that it is vital to the residents of the Town.

Cllr Dee requested that she had received a request for a new light by the basketball court – it was reported that this would be referred to Wem Sports and Social Association

Meeting ended 20.30

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Town Mayor