

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wem Urban held on Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7 p.m on the Zoom Virtual meeting platform.

Present:-Councillor P Glover (Town Mayor) and 29 members of the public.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

Apologies received from Cllr Johnson, Cllr Granger and Craig Jenkins
The Mayor welcomed all present and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

1. Welcome

2. To hear presentations from Groups who have been awarded a Town Council General Grant in 2021.

Louise Sachdave from Hope House Hospice gave a short presentation and outlined the financial losses that the hospice has suffered following the closure of shops during the pandemic. She explained that currently 8 families from the local area are receiving help from Hope House.

Phoebe Ashton from NS Wheelers outlined how the grant that NS Wheelers has been awarded would be used. She explained that the Wheelers had been running buses for vaccinations and the service has been well used. They have also helped with food deliveries to Whitchurch Food Bank.

Keith Higgins of Wem Cricket Club explained that the Cricket Club will be starting the new season soon and like many other small organisations the club's income has been affected over the last year. He explained that the junior team is growing and the grant will be used for the purchase of balls for the juniors and wicket covers.

Mandy Meakin from Wem Christmas Lights reported that despite the 2020 event being cancelled the group is preparing for the 2021 festival and funds will be put towards rewiring and new lights for the smaller Christmas Trees.

Rev Nick Heron (Chairman) of Whitchurch Road Cemetery reported on the history of the cemetery and work planned for the future.

Roger Drummond of Wem Army Cadets, reported that the cadets will be restarting and the summer camp is still being planned so the grant will be used to support the camp.

Sue Livesey from Blossoming Wem Group explained that this is one of the town's newest groups and the funds awarded will be used to help improve the look of the town and encourage the town to work together on environmental projects.

Sue Challis/Karen Plenty from Wem Youth Club, Sue explained that she is the outgoing chair of the youth club and the Town Council's support is invaluable to its work. Karen explained that this year they hope to support older teenagers and an outreach project will start working with these young people to reduce their risk of exploitation.

Ruth Wilson from Wem Jubilee Band reported that the grant would be used to help repair the band hall. She provided some history to the background of the band and explained how members progress through the bands.

Alan Walker from Wem Bowling Club thanked the Town Council for its grant which will be put towards the new floodlights on the Bowensfield Site.

Peter Slack of 1st Wem Scouts reported that the grant will help enormously after such a difficult year.

Jon Edge from Wem ADOS explained that the grant will go towards the redecoration of the theatre and that Stage Door is very heavily used especially by young people in and around the town.

Shelagh Richards from Wem Civic Society spoke on behalf of Wem Climate Change Group. She explained that following its launch in 2019 the group had split into several sub groups which had identified several different areas of work which it was progressing, these included

Food Group - This group are aiming to encourage sustainable food production and raise awareness of food production issues.

Flora and Fauna Group - Project Co-ordinator Malcolm Adkins reported on the work of this group which aimed to link areas of wildlife diversity through the development of wildlife corridors.

Public Access - Edwin Hargreaves explained the work of this group which is looking at footpath links around the town and the need to maintain, improve and expand the public rights of way around the town. The group is looking to establish a parish paths partnership group in the town.

Green Spaces - Barbara Cotterall explained that the group is currently considering the issue of the Green Space off Ranford Way and that a questionnaire has been circulated to residents living nearby. One of the suggestions would be to create a small green space with increased biodiversity and areas of seating. It is hoped if this project is successful it could also lead to the acquisition of a bigger area of land near Wem Mill which is currently in the process of being listed as an asset of community value, the background behind this application was explained by Michael Crawshaw.

Len Staines explained that his role was to provide a link between the town and rural area. He reported that the Parish Council newsletter which is sent to all residents is used to update Wem rural residents on the groups' climate change projects.

Edward Towers ended the presentations by summarising the work of the group and he explained that he acted as a link between the Town Council and the Group.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2019.

RESOLVED :- to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9.5.19 and they were duly signed as a true record.

To consider any Parish matter raised.

The problem of dog mess on The Shropshire Way to the North of the Town was raised and the Town Council were asked if it could supply some signs to encourage people to pick up after their dog mess.

Meeting ended 20.45

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Town Mayor