

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning, Highways and Climate Change Committee held on Thursday 14th October 2021 at 19.15 in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street Wem

Present:- Councillor P Broomhall (Mayor), Councillors, R Dodd, R Drummond, A Everett, P Glover, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, E Towers, C Granger, D Parry, M Hoffmann.

1 members of the public present

1 To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

RESOLVED:- to accept the following apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Johnson (illness)

Cllr Edge absent

2 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

a) To receive any disclosure of pecuniary interest - Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllrs Towers and Broomhall	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensations to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011. None received

3 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak (this may be extended at the discretion of the mayor).

4 Minutes - to approve the minutes of the Planning, Highways and Climate Change Committee meeting held on 8.9.21.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Planning, Highways and Climate Change Committee Meeting held on 8.9.21 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

5 Planning

a) To receive a presentation from representatives from Soulton Hall concerning proposed development on their land

Mr Ashton gave a presentation on early stage proposals for the development of housing units and community space on land owned by Soulton Hall.

RESOLVED:-to note the presentation.

b) To consider consultation by Shropshire Council on changes to planning committee structure

A discussion took place on this item and it was

RESOLVED:- to submit the following responses to the consultation

What do you think has been the impact of reducing the number of committees from three to two? **The Town Council wish to see 3 committees retained**

- Does this result in less informed decision making **Yes as those making the decisions will have less local knowledge and will not be aware of the views of the local council and electors**
- Does this result in less representative decision making? **Yes**
- Does this result in less emotive decision making? **Possibly but there is a worry that this will increase councillors reliance of the officer's recommendations which may not take into account the strength of feeling in the community.**

How should elected members determine planning applications with strategic implications across Shropshire, but significant local impact, such as the North West Relief Road? Should this be by a local committee or by a strategic committee covering the local authority area? **Strategic Committee**

Do you think – or do think committee members – are more inclined to go with officer recommendations when they have less knowledge or connection to an area? **Yes**

Parish and town councils: Do you think you are provided with sufficient planning training to put relevant planning reasons for refusal forward? **There has been no generic training given on planning at all in recent years by Shropshire Council. SALC does provide some but the Town Council has organised its own so feels that its responses to planning applications are well informed and in line with relevant planning reasons**

Should elected members be required to visit the site of a planning application before they make a decision about it?
Yes it is very important that those making decisions about applications that go to committee should endeavour to visit the site prior to making a decision.

Are there any other comments or observations that you'd like to make? **The Town Council would like Shropshire Council to provide more briefing sessions on planning to improve knowledge of what can and cannot be done.**

FURTHER RESOLVED:- that the Town Clerk identifies whether there would be any interest in holding planning training for Wem Area Councils.

6 Highways

a) Wem Town Traffic Project – to consider written notes from meeting held 29.9.21 with Kevin Aitkin.

As these notes were considered at the meeting held 30.9.21 no further questions were asked

Resolved to note the meeting report.

Meeting ended at 19.50

Chairman.....