

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present:- Councillors, R Barker, P Broomhall, R Dodd, R Drummond, R Gascoigne, P Glover, C Granger, D Hill, M Hoffmann, P Johnson, M Meakin, D Parry, G Soul (Mayor), E Towers.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).
1 member of the public present.

597/23 To note apologies for absence received.
None.

598/23 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.

The following interests were declared

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
Cllr Soul	604/23 Trustee Wem Town Hall	To allow participation in discussions but not vote

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

599/23 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public raised the following items

The Future Fit Consultation into the A&E Services in Shropshire did not ask a question about whether both A&E's should be kept open and a recent survey by the Green Party has found that people interviewed in Wem want both A&E departments to be retained and he would like the Town Council to support this stance.

Edinburgh House Planning application - concerns were raised about demolition of the building and the view was expressed that Connexus should sell the site on to a developer who could develop it better, also the new application does not address the objections previously raised.

Cllr Johnson joined the meeting at 19.05.

600/23 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th November 2023.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council ordinary meeting held on 30.11.23 and they were duly signed by The Mayor as a true record.

601/23 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

602/23 Planning Applications

a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) to consider the following planning applications

23/05064/FUL (validated: 27/11/2023) Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 5DB

Proposal: Partial demolition of single storey porch and conversion of empty office space into residential apartments at the ground and first floor, together with the creation of refurbished office space at the second floor within the southern section of the existing Edinburgh House and associated works Applicant: Connexus Homes Ltd

RESOLVED:- to support the application but to comment that the Town Council has concerns over the number of proposed apartments and the lack of open space.

603/23 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Budget report – to consider.

RESOLVED:- to note the budget report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

It was reported that these checks have not yet been completed due to the meeting being held early in the month.

RESOLVED:- to note.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries Dec (inc backdated pay rise)			9057.93	BACSPAYROLL
	HMRC			3890.27	BACSHMRC
	Pensions			3127.00	BACSLGPS
Waterplus	Rec toilet water 1.9.23 – 1.12.23	45.96	4.96	50.92	DD 56.23
Business2 Business	Telephone/Broadband	106.30	21.26	127.56	DD 57.23
Unity Trust Bank	Charges 31.12.23	36.75	0.00	36.75	

Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges	17.54	0.00	17.54	
Credit card payments for information only					
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	3.00		3.00	CC 10.23
Bank Transfer	12.12.23				
Nationwide account	Unity Trust	50,000.00		50,000.00	

Payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Security Wise	Cherry Picker Hire	350.00	70.00	420.00	163.23
Wildes Plant Hire	Generator Hire (Christmas Festival)	330.00	66.00	396.00	164.23
Shropshire Council	Street Light Energy Oct – Dec	2141.28	428.26	2569.54	165.23
Wem Parochial CC	Christmas Tree Festival Donation	5.00	0.00	5.00	166.23
MW Medics	First Aid Cover (Christmas Festival)	200.00	40.00	240.00	167.23
SALC	Councillor Training	30.00	0.00	30.00	168.23
ISM IT Ltd	IT Support	99.99	20.00	119.99	169.23
M Fitton	Bus Shelter Clean (Dec)	75.00	0.00	75.00	170.23
Healthmatic	Car Park Toilet Cleaning 17 Nov – 16 Dec	799.33	159.87	959.20	171.23
PG Skips	Bin Emptying (Nov)	101.68	20.32	122.00	172.23
SLCC	Membership Fee	288.00	0.00	288.00	173.23
D W Evans	Gravedigging Nov.	625.00	0.00	625.00	174.23
PG Skips	Skip (hedgecutting)	200.00	40.00	240.00	175.23
RA Allmark	Cemetery path	5725.00	1145.00	6870.00	176.23
Bidvest Noonan	Security 1.12.23	422.88	84.58	507.46	177.23

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to make any regular payments due by the end of December.

604/23 Town Hall Liaison Group - to consider report from meeting held 11.12.23.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

605/23 Events Liaison Group meeting 13.12.23- to consider a verbal report from the meeting to review the Wem Christmas Lights Switch On. Cllr Broomhall gave a verbal report on this meeting. Concerns were raised about congestion around the stage and it was reported that this will be considered in 2024.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

606/23 Wem Store Cupboard – to consider a verbal report from the meeting held 14.12.23. The Clerk reported that plans were in place for a food share to be held in February.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

607/23 Streetlights Cherry Close – to receive report on lights.
A discussion took place on this matter and the Clerk was asked to contact Connexus to raise the Town Councils concerns about the sub-contractor burying live cables.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

608/23 Correspondence
a) To consider correspondence requesting that Town Council supports the Green Party Motion that both A&E departments are retained in Shropshire.
A discussion took place on this item and Councillors expressed the view that there was insufficient information provided on what is being proposed and the survey conducted by the Green Party.

RESOLVED:- not to take any further action at this stage.

609/23 Reports
a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. None received.
b) to receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers.

RESOLVED:- to note the report received from Cllr Towers and Broomhall.

610/23 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of January meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note the next meeting will take place on 25.1.24 with the Budget meeting on 18.1.24.

Meeting ended 20.00

Mayor.....

At the end of the meeting the Honorary Townsman for 2023 presentation was made to Claire Glover for all her work developing Wem Store Cupboard and providing food support to the residents of Wem and the surrounding areas.