

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

137/22 **To receive apologies and reasons for absence.**

RESOLVED:-to accept the following apologies for absence

Cllr Soul – Covid Related, Cllr Everett – family commitment, Cllr Hoffmann - work commitment.

138/22 **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Interests of bias or pre-determination.**

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
Cllr Towers	<p>Item 140/22b Allotments Bias interest as wife rents an allotment.</p> <p>Item 141/22 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre - Disclosable pecuniary interest as a Board Member.</p> <p>Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery – Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council taxpayer in the town.</p>	<p>Allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSLC</p> <p>Allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSSA</p>
Cllr Broomhall	<p>Item 141/22 Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Meakin	<p>Item 141/22 Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery – Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p>	

	<p>Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias Interest in the application for funding as a Trustee.</p> <p>Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Glover	<p>Item 141/22 Wem Youth Club – Bias interest as wife is committee member.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council taxpayer in the town.</p> <p>Item 144/22a Planning application 21/05863/FUL, Old Post Office – pecuniary interest as neighbour of property.</p>	
Cllr Granger	<p>Item 141/22 Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Wem Cricket Club - bias interest as related to chairman.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council taxpayer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Dodd	<p>Item 140/22b Allotments Bia interest as husband rents an allotment.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council taxpayer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Drummond	<p>Item 141/22 Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as Trustee.</p> <p>Millennium Green – Bias interest as committee member.</p> <p>Item 143/22 Precept – Pecuniary interest as council taxpayer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Edge	<p>Item 141/22 Wem Youth Club – Bias interest as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre - Bias interest.</p>	

	<p>Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 143/22</p> <p>Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Hill	<p>Item 143/22</p> <p>Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Johnson	<p>Item 143/22</p> <p>Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	
Cllr Parry	<p>Item 141/22</p> <p>Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery – bias interest as member of the committee.</p> <p>Item 143/22</p> <p>Precept – Pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town.</p>	

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllrs P Glover, R Drummond, R Dodd, C Granger, M Meakin, D Hill, P Broomhall , D Parry, K Edge, P Johnson, E Towers applied for a dispensation under item 143/22 Town Council precept to allow them to discuss and vote on the setting of the Council Precept.

Resolved: - to award the following dispensations

To Cllrs P Glover, R Drummond, R Dodd, C Granger, M Meakin, D Hill, P Broomhall, D Parry, K Edge, P Johnson, E Towers to permit them to discuss and vote on the annual precept during the electoral term.

139/22 **2021-22 Estimated Year End Income / Expenditure** – to consider estimated budget report and accompanying notes.

Resolved: - to note the report and authorise the Finance Committee to make recommendations for the allocation of any overspend to earmarked reserves at its meeting in April 2021.

140/22 **Fees and Charges for 2022-23** - to review the following charges as per recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee.
a) Love Lane Cemetery charges.

Resolved: - to approve the recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee and not increase cemetery charges for 2022/23.

b) Love Lane Allotments – Annual rents, admin and waiting list fees.
Cllr Dodd and Towers left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: - to approve the recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee and not increase allotment rents for 2022/23.

Cllr Dodd and Towers returned to the meeting.

141/22 **Larger Contributions** - To consider contribution requests received from larger organisations running services or facilities within the Town.

Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre

Cllr Edge left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: - to award Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre a financial contribution of £55,000 towards the running of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre for the year 2022-23.

Cllr Towers did not vote on this item.

Cllr Edge returned to the meeting.

Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery

Cllrs Meakin, Parry and Towers left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: - to award Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery a financial contribution of £2000 towards maintenance and upkeep of the Whitchurch Road Cemetery for the financial year 2022/23.

Cllrs Meakin, Parry and Towers returned to the meeting.

Wem Youth Club

Cllrs Glover and Edge left the meeting and took no part in discussions

Resolved: - to award Wem Youth Club £2000 towards the running of the Youth Club for the financial year 2022/23.

Cllr Glover returned to the meeting.

Wem Christmas Lights & Festival Committee

Cllrs Granger, Meakin and Broomhall left the meeting and took no part in discussions. Cllr Johnson took the chair.

Resolved: - to award Wem Christmas Lights & Festival Committee £3000 towards the upkeep of the Christmas Lights and running of the festival in 2022.

Cllrs Granger, Edge, Broomhall and Meakin returned to the meeting.

Wem Cricket Club

Cllr Granger left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: - not to make this award.

Cllr Granger returned to the meeting.

Wem Millennium Green

Cllr Drummond left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: - to award Wem Millennium Green £1700 towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Millennium Green for the financial year 2022-23.

Wem Sports and Social Association

Cllr Meakin left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

Resolved: to award Wem Sports and Social Association £19,500 towards the maintenance and upkeep of the land and properties managed by the Association.

Cllrs Meakin and Drummond returned to the meeting.

142/22 **2022-23 Budget**

6a) To consider the Town Council budget for 2022-2023.

Lighting

Councillors were made aware of the contribution from earmarked reserves towards the column replacement programme as previously agreed.

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the Public Lighting Budget be set at £27,500.

Cemetery

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the Burial Ground Budget be set at to £8,800 including the contribution to Whitchurch Road Cemetery.

Allotments

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the Allotments Budget be set at £1,100.

Recreation

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the recreation budget is increased to £50,300 and that £5000 from this budget will be allocated from general reserves to contribute towards the Recreation Ground railings replacement.

Toilets

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the Public Toilets budget is set at £12,600.

Bus Shelters

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the bus shelter budget is set at £1,400.

Miscellaneous Amenities/ Services

Floral Planters

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the budget for floral planters is reduced to £5000.

CCTV

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the CCTV budget is maintained at £5,000.

Administration

The Clerk outlined the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee.

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee that the Administration Budget is set at £27,095.

Cllr Expenses

Resolved: - to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee that the Cllr Expenses budget is maintained at £1,075.

Staffing

Resolved: -

- To approve the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee that the Staffing budget is set at £121,227 and that a pay rise of one increment be awarded to the Groundsman.
- To approve the recommendation of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee following the Clerk's appraisal that she be awarded a pay rise of one increment.

Contributions

Resolved: - to approve the contributions budget of £21,756 with £606 allocated from earmarked reserves for the Christmas Lights lease.

Swimming Pool

In addition to the contribution agreed for Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre under item 141/22 it was reported that the budget for insurance and repairs be maintained at 2021/22 levels.

Resolved: - to approve the Swimming Pool budget of £64,300.

Msc.

Wem Town Hall

Resolved: - to allocate a budget of £20,000 as per year 1 of the 3 year service level agreement.

Town Transformation

The Clerk outlined that the funds allocated under this budget heading were for the Town Council to carry out specialist works associated with the taking on of new assets/services/facilities in the town.

Resolved: - not to allocate any expenditure budget for this item.

Resolved: - to approve a 2022-23 expenditure budget of £367,153.

The Clerk outlined the income budget and it was

Resolved: - to set an income budget (excluding precept) of £17,350 with a contribution of £5,606 from earmarked reserves.

6b) To consider 3 year forward budget report.

Resolved: - to note the 3 year forward budget report.

143/22 **Town Council Precept** - To agree the Town Council precept for 2022-2023
A discussion took place on this item and Councillors expressed the view that it was important to keep any increase low due to the ongoing impact of Covid and inflationary rises on the community.

Resolved: - to set a Town Council precept for 2022-23 of £344197.

144/22 **Planning Applications To consider the following planning applications**
a) 21/05863/FUL Old Post Office and Buildings to rear of 25 High Street, Wem, SY4 5DG

Proposal - Redevelopment of site to include change of use of public house to retail (Class E a-g), conversion of part existing building to residential to create (2no apartments), erection of a new build residential building (7no apartments) following removal of existing outbuildings and associated external works.

Cllr Glover left the meeting and took on part in discussions.

A discussion took place on the need for a management fund to ensure that the properties if developed were properly looked after.

Resolved: to object to the application for the following reasons

- **The Town Council consider the proposals to be over development of the site which is an important location in the conservation area.**

Cllr Glover returned to the meeting.

b) 21/05813/TCA Sunningdale 9 Mill Street, Wem, Shropshire, SY4 5ED
Proposal - To fell 1no Lawson Cypress (T1) within the Wem conservation area
It was reported that this application had been approved prior to the meeting.

Meeting ended 20.20