

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 24th November 2022
at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

0 members of the public present, 1 member of the press present

346/22 To note apologies for absence received.

The following apologies were noted Cllr Broomhall, Cllr Crawshaw, Cllr Edge, Cllr Glover, Cllr Hoffmann.

347/22 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
Cllr Towers	Twin-hatted member 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 Towers	354/22/a+b Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Director	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Soul	Item 351/22/b/iii 22/05030/FUL Coed Hill, Aston Road, Wem, SY4 5JD – bias interest lives near site	
Cllr Meakin	Item 351/22/b/iii 22/05030/FUL Coed Hill, Aston Road, Wem, SY4 5JD – bias interest as friend of applicant	
Cllr Meakin, Granger	Item 355/22 a+b Members of the Christmas lights committee	
Cllr Soul	Item 362/22/c Trustee of Wem Town Hall	Dispensation to discuss but not vote on any matters relating to Wem Town Hall

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

348/22 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak – no public present.

349/22 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held on 27th October 2022.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27.10.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

350/22 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

351/22 Planning Applications

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To consider the following planning applications

i) **22/04744/FUL** 26 Kynaston Drive, Wem, SY4 5DE

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to rear and conversion of existing garage to living accommodation.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as the proposed plans are appropriate to the area.

ii) **22/05026/FUL** 20 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as the proposed plans are appropriate to the area.

iii) **22/05030/FUL** Coed Hill, Aston Road, Wem, SY4 5JD

Proposal: Residential development of 2No. dwellings together with single garages, associated external works and drainage (resubmission).

Cllr Soul and Cllr Meakin declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Dodd took the chair.

RESOLVED:- to object to the application for the following reasons

- **Overdevelopment of the site, the Council considers that 2 dwellings on the plot is too many for the space.**
- **Loss of Privacy - the Council consider that the proposals will result in an unacceptable loss of privacy for neighbouring properties.**
- **Sewage System - The Council is concerned about the impact of the proposals on the existing sewage system as there are already reported problems in the area.**
- **Highways Infrastructure - The Council is concerned about the impact that the proposed properties will have on the highways network in this part of Wem. They are particularly concerned that extra properties in this location will increase the number of cars using smaller roads as cut throughs, particularly the use of Cordwell Park and exacerbate the existing issues of traffic bottlenecking by Wem level crossing.**

Cllr Soul and Meakin returned to the meeting.

iv) **22/04928/FUL** Kingston, Saulton Road, Wem, SY4 5HR

Proposal: Replacement of existing dormers on front elevation and insertion of two new gable windows.

RESOLVED:- to support this application as it will improve the property and will not impact on neighbouring properties.

v) **22/04863/FUL** The Pippins, 5 The Paddock, Whitchurch Road, Wem, SY4 5YA
Proposal: Conversion and small front extension of existing garage to form ground floor accessible bedroom.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as it will improve accessibility to the property.

vi) **22/04783/FUL / 22/04784/LBC** 67 High Street Wem SY4 5DR
Proposal: Repair and utilise attached outbuilding at the rear, works to include constructing a new stud work partition on the first floor, reapplying an external render finish, enlarging garden WC by incorporating the wood store, works also include extending existing rear lobby with new and enlarged rear entrance hall with new staircases and under stairs WC affecting a grade 2 listed building.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as the repairs are necessary to improve a building at risk.

c) For information
22/03272/FUL Unit 2 Central Car Park, High Street, Wem, SY4 5AA
Proposal: Erection of six bungalows with associated works. Information enclosed.

RESOLVED:- to note.

352/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Monthly Budget report – to note.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.
It was reported that the October internal audit checks had been completed by Cllr Soul with no concerns raised.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

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

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Payments made prior to meeting

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Shropshire Council	Salaries November inc. October overtime			5664.54 1873.48 1970.38	BACSPAYROLL BACSLGPS BACSHMRC
EE	Mobile Phones	43.55	8.71	52.26	DD
Onecom	Office Telephone	34.54	6.91	41.45	DD
Business to Business	Broadband September	37.48	7.50	44.98	DD

Business to Business	Broadband November	49.98	10.00	59.98	DD
Nayax	RGT service fee	10.00	2.00	12.00	Debit from sales
Nayax	RGT payment fee	0.42	0.00	0.42	Debit from sales
Waterplus	Allotment Water Charges	271.05	54.21	325.26	DD
Unity Trust Bank	BACS Charges	17.68	0.00	17.68	DD
Lloyds Bank	Corporate Card charges	3.00	0.00	3.00	DD
WME	Energy– car park toilets	44.53	2.23	46.76	DD

Payments for authorisation

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Education Sales Ltd	PA Hire – Remembrance	80.00	16.00	96.00	148.22
SALC	Social Media Training	30.00	0.00	30.00	149.22
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	121.05	24.20	145.25	150.22
WH Darby	Mayoral Chain Valuation	375.00	75.00	450.00	151.22
Highline Electrical	October Streetlight Repairs	89.00	17.80	106.80	152.22
Highline Electrical	Festive Lights	1148.85	229.77	1378.62	153.22
Shropshire Council	Payroll Services	625.00	125.00	750.00	154.22
ISM IT	IT support	92.97	18.59	111.56	155.22
Fenland Leisure Products	Playground repair materials	138.67	27.73	166.40	156.22
JSL	Cable Ties	11.59	2.32	13.91	157.22
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	80.00	0.00	80.00	158.22
Via Della Emilia	Hedge Trimming	470.00	94.00	564.00	159.22
Via Della Emilia	Hedge Trimming	385.00	77.00	462.00	160.22
SYA	Heads Up Provision	3333.33	666.67	4000.00	161.22
County Security	Rec Toilet Lock	136.00	27.20	163.20	163.22
DW Evans	Gravedigging October	855.00	0.00	855.00	164.22
Security Wise	CCTV	350.00	70.00	420.00	165.22
Fenland Leisure Products	Play Equipment	704.73	140.95	845.68	166.22
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	167.22
Fruitful Deli	Refreshments Civic Service	88.00	0.00	88.00	168.22
Wem Town Council	Petty Cash	64.57	0.00	64.57	300119
Wem Senior Club	Room Hire	30.00	0.00	30.00	300120

353/22 Wem Economic Forum meeting 16.11.22 – to receive a report from. Cllr Towers updated on the recent meeting and it was

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

354/22 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Liaison Group meeting 21.11.22

a) to receive a report from. Cllr Towers presented the draft report from this meeting which was not quorate.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) to consider amended quote for structural inspection and to discuss tenders received for the supply and installation of the pool liner. Swimming Pool Liaison Group have recommended that as only 1 tender was submitted this item should be deferred so that at least 2 quotes can be obtained. With regard to the structural inspection of the pool basin the group also wish this decision to be deferred.

RESOLVED:- to defer a decision on the installation of the pool liner until a further quote has been received.

355/22 Wem Christmas Lights and Festival

a) Licence Application – to consider application received for use of the Town Council's premises license.

The Clerk reported that the committee had provided sufficient documentation about how the event would address the 4 licencing objectives along with an event management plan, risk assessment, public liability insurance cover and proof of road closure.

RESOLVED:- to authorise Wem Christmas Lights and Festival Committee to operate the Christmas Lights festival event on 2.12.22 under the Town Council's premises licence.

b) Future of Christmas lights – to discuss.

A discussion took place on this item and several views were expressed concerning the cost of the Town Council taking over the Christmas lights.

RESOLVED:- to set up a working party comprising of Cllrs Parry, Johnson and Soul to look into this item in more detail and make a recommendation to the Town Council's budget meeting in January 2023.

356/22 Mayoral Chain proposals – to discuss alternative quote received and options open to the Town Council.

RESOLVED:- to defer this item but to instruct the Clerk to place an allocation in the budget so that funds can be built up over the next 2 years to cover the cost of a new chain for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

357/22 Wem Traffic Project – For update on response received from WSP.

Councillors stated that they were impressed with the quote submitted as it was very comprehensive. However, concerns were expressed over the cost of the works and councillors felt that it should be funded by Shropshire Council not the Town Council.

RESOLVED:- to request that Cllr Towers and Cllr Broomhall be asked to press for the funding of this study by Shropshire Council as it is a function of the Highway Authority.

358/22 Consultations

a) Draft Tenancy Strategy.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

b) Constituency Boundary Review.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

359/22 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. A report from Cllr Parry on the Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery was considered and it was

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers. A report from Cllr Towers was considered and it was

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

360/22 Future agenda items – for consideration Councillor's opportunity to raise items for inclusion on the next agenda – *Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.*
None.

361/22 Dates of future meetings –

a) To note the date and time of December meeting and set date for Budget meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the December meeting will be held on Thursday 15th December and that the Budget Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th January 2023.

362/22 Exclusion of Public and Press

To resolve that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public.

a) Correspondence - supporting letter request.

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

b) 2022-23 Salary Award – to approve.

RESOLVED:- to approve the 2022-23 national salary award backdated to 1.4.22.

c) Wem Market SLA – to consider response received.

RESOLVED:- to defer a decision on this item to the December meeting of the Town Council to give the Market Working Party the chance to consider the proposal in more detail.

Meeting ended at 20.30

Mayor.....