

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

CSO Jamie Robinson spoke at the start of the meeting and updated Councillors on current issues in the town. He highlighted the new Neighbourhood Matters initiative and urged Councillors to spread the message that crimes must be reported to the police direct and not just on community social media pages. A discussion took place on speeding and the need for better speed enforcement at night especially on the gateways to the town. The issue of low level anti social behaviour was also discussed.

**167/22 To receive and consider for approval apologies for absence and reasons given.**

**RESOLVED**:-to accept the following apologies and reasons for absence  
Cllr Glover – family commitment, Cllr Drummond – personal commitment,  
Cllr Edge – family commitment.

**168/22 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.

The following interests were declared.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
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 Towers	175/22 Bias interest as member of Wem Baptist church	
Cllr Everett	175/22 Bias interest as Chairman of NS Wheelers and member of Wem Baptist Church	
Cllr Soul	175/22 Bias interest NS Wheelers as a volunteer	
Cllr Johnson	175/22 Bias interest member of Wem Bowling Club	
Cllr Parry	175/22 Bias interest as family member is a member of Wem Bowling Club	

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

None received.

**169/22 Public Participation** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.  
None present.

**170/22 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**RESOLVED**:- That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 27.1.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

**171/22 Progress report** - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the report.

**172/22 Planning Applications**

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the report.

b) To consider the following planning applications

i) **22/00195/FUL** – 50 High Street, Wem, SY4 5DW

Proposal: Installation of new shop front affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application as it will improve the appearance of the street scene.

ii) **22/00196/LBC** – 50 High Street, Wem, SY45DW

Proposal: Installation of new shop front affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application as it will improve the appearance of the street scene.

iii) **22/00253/FUL** – 24 Noble Street, Wem, SY4 5DZ

Proposal: Installation of two free-standing Air Source Heat Pumps to rear of building.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application.

iv) **22/002534/LBC** – 24 Noble Street, Wem, SY4 5DZ

Proposal: Works for the Installation of two free standing Air Source Heat Pumps affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application.

v) **22/00536/TPO** - Atlanta, The Plantation, Souldon Road, Wem, SY4 5TL

Proposal: Works to 1No. Scots Pine, reduce over extended crown over neighbouring garden to the east by up to 25%, to a suitable reduction point

protected by The North Shropshire District Council (The Plantation, Soulton Road, Wem) TPO 1997.

**RESOLVED**:- not to comment on the application.

vi) **22/00494/FUL** Sunningdale, 9 Mill Street, Wem, SY4 5ED  
Proposal: Installation of north boundary 3.45m high fence, covered walk way and associated works.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application.

c) **Lowe Hill Road Planning Appeal** – to consider report from Cllr Towers to submit a response to the appeal decision.  
A discussion took place on this item and Councillors expressed frustration at the appeal decision and the way the application was handled by the planning officers.

**RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk be instructed to write to members of Shropshire Council Northern Area Planning Committee, Shropshire Council Leader, Shropshire Council director of planning and Helen Morgan MP to request a response to the following questions in relation to planning application 20/01054/OUT:

1. What justification was there for officers to make a decision on such a major and controversial development outside of the planning boundary under delegated authority rather than it being referred to the planning committee?
2. How did the officers justify presenting their own withdrawal of objections to application 20/01054/OUT despite the fact they were aware of feelings of the planning committee concerning the second planning application submitted for this site?

**173/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment.**

a) **Internal Controls** – to note that internal checks carried out by The Mayor are up to date.

**RESOLVED**:-to note that the internal controls are up to date.

b) **Monthly income expenditure against budget report** – to consider.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the report.

c) **Welcome Back Fund** – to agree to suspend financial regulations to allow payment of invoices relating to the Welcome Back Grant Fund Application prior to receiving the items.

**RESOLVED**:- to suspend financial regulations and allow payment of the following invoices relating to the Welcome Back Fund Grant prior to receipt of goods

- Shelly Signs – Noticeboard
- Amberol - Planter purchase
- D Murray – Plant supply and maintenance
- J Roberts – Painting works held up due to weather

d) **Accounts for payment** - to approve accounts for payment.

**RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments**

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Chq / BACS No</b>
EE	Mobile phone	39.25	7.85	47.10	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	15.16	3.03	18.19	DD
Onecom	Landline	33.23	6.65	39.88	DD
B2B Communications	Broadband	37.49	7.49	44.98	DD
PWLB	Loan Repayment	2007.15	0.00	2007.15	DD
Playsafety Ltd.	Playground Inspection Course & Exam	635.00	97.00	732.00	189.21
WME	Electricity	130.11	6.51	136.62	190.21
Cakes by Julie	Townsmen Refreshments	120.00	0.00	120.00	191.21
Chagos Consulting	Parish Online Training	10.00	0.00	10.00	192.21
HAGS-SMP ltd	Play Equipment Repair	25.00	5.00	30.00	193.21
ISM IT	Computer Contract	86.97	17.40	104.37	194.21
PG Skips	Rec and cemetery bins	92.24	18.44	110.68	195.21
JM Roberts	Repainting benches/ bollards	1565.00	0.00	1565.00	196.21
Waterplus	Drainage Charges	122.39	0.00	122.39	197.21
Highline Electrical	Street light repairs	46.00	9.20	55.20	198.21
DW Evans	Grave Digging	275.00	0.00	275.00	199.21
Hunter Lloyd	PAT testing	92.50	18.50	111.00	200.21
RN Wood Solutions	Shed	685.00	0.00	685.00	201.21
Shropshire Council	Streetlighting Energy	1603.51	320.70	1924.21	202.21
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	70.00	0.00	70.00	203.21
David Murray	Summer Planters	496.00	0.00	496.00	204.21
Shropshire Council	Payroll Recharge	10,389.50	0.00	10,389.50	205.21
Healthmatic	Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	206.21
Shelley Signs	Display Board	645.00	129.00	774.00	207.21
Amberol	Floral planters	431.50	83.30	517.80	208.21
Highline	Column replacement yr 1	16400.95	3280.19	19681.14	209.21
West Mercia energy	Jan electric	133.67	6.67	140.05	210.21

**e) Interim Internal Audit Report - to review.**

**RESOLVED:- to note the report and request that the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee investigates the benefits and risks associated with a pre-paid credit/debit card for use by Council staff.**

**174/22 Town Council Small Grants** – to consider applications received and agree the Town Council Small Grants awards for 2022-23.

**RESOLVED:-** to award the following grants

RECEIVED FROM	Amount Awarded
<b>Army Cadet Force League</b>	<b>£200</b>
<b>Baptist Church</b> Cllr Towers and Everett left the meeting and took no part in discussions	<b>£300</b>
Cllr Towers and Everett returned to the meeting <b>Wem Cricket Club</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Wem Jubilee Band</b>	<b>£500</b>
Cllr Everett and Soul left the meeting and took no part in discussions <b>NS Wheelers Community Bus Project</b>	<b>£500</b>
Cllr Everett and Soul returned to the meeting <b>Vehicles of Interest</b>	<b>£500</b>
Cllr Johnson and Parry left the meeting and took no part in discussions <b>Wem Bowling Club</b>	<b>£500</b>
Cllr Johnson and Parry returned to the meeting <b>Wem Guiding</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3500</b>

**175/22 Town events**

a) Platinum Jubilee Celebration Steering Group meeting 15.2.22 to receive report on meeting held.

A verbal report was given on this meeting.

**RESOLVED:-** to note the report.

b) Premises Licence – to consider applying for a premises licence for Wem Recreation Ground and Town Centre.

**RESOLVED:-** to apply to Shropshire Council for a premises licence to cover entertainment on Wem Recreation Ground and in the Town Centre including the following areas - Jubilee Square, Wem High Street between New Street and Maunds Corner and Leek Street including top section adjacent to the public toilets of the main car park.

c) Gazebos- to approve draft hire agreement.

**RESOLVED:-** to approve the draft hire agreement.

**176/22 Heads Up** – to consider submitting a grant application in partnership with SYA to the self-isolation support grant scheme for funds to contribute to extending the project.

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the submission of a grant application to the Self Isolation Support Grant to fund a further year of the Heads up programme in Wem.

- 177/22 Town Council badges** – to discuss and consider quote received.  
A discussion took place and it was agreed that bespoke badges were not necessary and that in house badges would be sufficient.

**RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk be instructed to organise the creation of name badges in house that can be used by councillors at events

- 178/22 Carbon Literacy Training** – to consider undertaking.

**RESOLVED**:- to defer to next meeting to enable the Clerk to find out more information about the time commitment and cost of training.

- 179/22 Fire Station CCTV Camera** – to consider quote to replace camera (deferred from previous meeting).

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the quote submitted by Securitywise to replace the fire station camera.

- 180/22 Robert Hill & Noble Street Charity** – to consider request to reappoint Cllr Dodd and Cllr Meakin as trustees.

**RESOLVED**:- to reappoint Cllr Dodd and Cllr Meakin as trustees to the Robert Hill and Noble Street Charity.

- 181/22 Boundary Review Update** – to discuss.

A discussion took place on this item and views were expressed on the benefits of the inclusion of Wem Industrial Estate within the boundary of the town. It was also reported that some residents of Tilley, Aston and Barkers Green considered themselves to be part of Wem Town and not Wem Rural.

**RESOLVED**:- to write to Wem Rural Parish Council to invite the Chairman and Clerk to attend a meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to seek the view of Wem Rural Parish Council with regard to the submission of a joint boundary review application.

- 182/22 Correspondence**

a) Streetlight Wemsbrook Road – to consider correspondence on this matter.  
A discussion took place on this item and Councillors expressed dismay that the letters posted to residents in November had not been received. The Scottish Power connection cost implications of moving the light to the residents preferred location were considered and it was

**RESOLVED**:-

- That due to the additional connection costs involved with moving the column, not to agree to fund the relocation of the street light column from its current location.
- To offer to fit a shield to the new light should light pollution from the new column become an issue for the resident.

**183/22 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 written report received from Cllr Towers and Broomhall.**

**184/22 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.*  
*The Clerk was asked to receive an update on the Emergency Plan.*

**185/22 Dates of future meetings –**

a) To note the date and time of March meeting and set date and agree speakers for the Annual Town Meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

- **To note that the March meeting will be held on 31.3.22.**
- **That the Annual Town Meeting is to be held on 21.4.22 and that a speaker from Shropshire Supports Refugees be invited to give a talk on their work.**

**186/22 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 – none present.**

a) Staffing Policies review – to consider recommendations from Cllr Dodd, Cllr Soul and Cllr Broomhall on draft employee handbook.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the updated employee handbook.**

b) Whitchurch Town Council Staffing Request

Whilst councillors were amenable to the idea of providing limited specialist support to a neighbouring council, concern was expressed by Councillors about previous treatment of Whitchurch Town Council staff.

**RESOLVED:- to request that the Clerk holds a meeting with the Whitchurch Town Council Locum Clerk to assess the amount and type of work that is required and report back to the March meeting.**

Meeting ended at 20.50