

Minutes of an ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on
Thursday 25th March 2021 at 19.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, R Drummond, A Everett, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, G Soul, E Towers,

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

3 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

Inspector Greenaway from Wem SNT gave a brief report on the recent work of Wem SNT. She reported that there had been very few Covid 19 breaches in the town which was a testament to the community taking the pandemic seriously. Questions were asked about whether the police were receiving abuse from members of the public and it was explained that most of the community had been very respectful during this period. In response to a question about reports of suspicious vehicles on social media, it was explained that the message must be to urge anyone with concerns to report issues on 101. A question was asked about anti-social behaviour on Wem Recreation Ground and it was reported that the problem was sporadic but patrols will continue. Inspector Greenaway reported that localised drug dealing does take place and the team work very hard to ensure that information on drug dealing is dealt with quickly. A member of the public explained that the community speedwatch programme is currently being established in the town and volunteers are needed to help with this initiative. Inspector Greenaway was thanked for attending the meeting.

356/21 To receive apologies and reasons for absence

Absent Cllr Nash, Cllr Edge.

357/21 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
Cllr Mellings and Dee	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.

358/21 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public spoke in support of the need of a new skate park in the town, he requested that The Council look at the new skate park in Baschurch and he would be happy to work with the Town Council on this project.

359/21 Council Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25th February 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 5th March 2021.

RESOLVED:-

- That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the zoom virtual meeting platform on 25.2.21 be approved as a correct record. Authority was given for them to be signed by the Mayor at a later date.
- That the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the zoom virtual meeting platform on 5.3.21 be approved as a correct record. Authority was given for them to be signed by the Mayor at a later date.

360/21 Reports

- a) Clerks progress Report - to consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

361/21 Planning Applications

- a) **Planning Applications** – to consider the following
21/00771/FUL 25 Aston Street, Wem, SY4 5AY, Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of existing lean to extension.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as it is beneficial to the existing building.

21/00966/TPO – 21 Pantulph Road, Wem, SY4 5LT, Proposal: Crown reduce by around 20% and remove/reduce thin, over-extended branches of 1no Oak Tree (T1) protected by Shropshire Council (Fismes Way and Oakley Meadow, Wem) TPO 2015.

It was reported that this application was granted in advance of the meeting.

21/00970/FUL – 7 Bailey Close, Wem, SY4 5UR, Proposal: Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling with associated works including solar panels and external materials.

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

- b) **Planning Decisions** – to consider report.

RESOLVED:- to note.

362/21 Finance and Accounts

- a) Monthly budget report – for consideration.

RESOLVED:- to note.

- b) Accounts for payment – To approve accounts for payment.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments made before the meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
EE	Mobile phone	21.00	4.20	25.20	DD

Talk Talk	Broadband	19.95	3.99	23.94	DD
PWLB	Loan repayment			2079.60	DD

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
PG Skips	Bin emptying Cemetery and Recreation Ground February 2021	88.68	17.76	106.44	196.20
West Mercia Energy	Electricity Public Toilets 1.1.21-31.1.21	112.52	5.63	118.15	197.20
D Murray	Winter Planters	210.00		210.00	198.20
SALC	New Councillor training	30.00		30.00	199.20
ORP	CCTV contract	2288.00	457.60	2745.60	200.20
ISM Ltd	Computer Contract	61.98	12.40	74.38	201.20
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning March 2021	65.00		65.00	202.20
Ricoh	Copier Lease Copy Costs Total	129.74 43.58 173.32	34.67	207.99	203.20
Shropshire Council	Salaries Mar with Feb casual hours and Mayor's allowance	9810.13		9810.13	204.20
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning February	829.17	165.83	995.00	205.20
Shelley signs	Replacement Recreation Ground sign	415.00	83.00	498.00	206.20
SALC	Councillor Training	30.00		30.00	207.20
Onecom	Telephone	37.04	7.41	44.45	DD

- 363/21 Amenities and Service Committee meeting held 9.3.21-** to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.
Cllr Johnson gave a report on this meeting and it was

RESOLVED:- to receive the draft minutes of the Amenities and Services Committee held 9.3.21 and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Drummond left the meeting due to a connection issue at 19.35.

- 364/21 Verification Committee held 23.3.21** - to receive draft minutes from this meeting.

RESOLVED:- to receive the draft minutes of the Verification Committee meeting held 23.3.21.

- 365/21 Blossoming Wem Group meeting 23.3.21** – to receive a report from this meeting and consider any recommendations.
This item was taken after item 369/20 due to Cllr Drummond's connection issues
Cllr Drummond reported that the plans of the group were progressing.

RESOLVED:- to receive the report and to agree to enter into discussions with the group over the proposed installation of a sculpture on the Jubilee Square.

366/21 Mobile phone contract – to approve contract for Groundsman’s mobile phone. Quotes received were considered and it was:

RESOLVED:- to approve the recommendation that the Groundman’s mobile phone contract with M-viron is renewed for 24 months.

367/21 Review of all contracts job descriptions – to consider quote from Shropshire Council for undertaking a review.

RESOLVED:- to approve the quote of £140 from Shropshire Council to undertake the following work

- Review contracts of employment to ensure legal compliance.
- Revising contents as necessary.

368/21 Bowensfield Car Park and MUGA Line marking - to consider quote received. It was explained that only 1 quote had been sought for this work as the MUGA line marking was specialist and the Clerk had difficulty obtaining more than one quote for the works.

RESOLVED:- to

- Suspend financial regulations to allow only 1 quote to be considered.
- To approve the quote received from Ash Road Markings for White Line Marking Bowensfield Car Park and the MUGA Court on Wem Recreation Ground.

Cllr Drummond returned to the meeting at 19.45.

369/21 Correspondence - for consideration (copy enclosed).
a) Request to install a duck platform and house on Wheatfields Pond.

RESOLVED:- to approve the request subject to the following conditions

- That the trunks of any trees used for tethering the duck house / floating island are protected so they are not damaged in any way.
- The Town Council does not accept any liability for any damage or accidents caused during the construction, erection and removal of the duck house / floating island.
- The duck house / floating island must be removed and stored away from site once the ducklings have fledged.
- That permission will be reviewed annually.

b) Request for new skate park.

A discussion took place and there was general agreement that the current skate park is in need of replacement although concerns were raised at the cost of a replacement.

RESOLVED:- that the matter is referred to the Amenities and Services Committee to consider its replacement in more detail.

370/21 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllr Drummond on his attendance at the NSALC meeting held on 15.3.21. Cllr Drummond also gave an update on the NALC meeting he had attended earlier in the day which he found very informative.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report received from Cllr Mellings.

371/21 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.*
No matters raised.

372/21 Date of next meeting – to note date of April meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th April 2021.

373/21 Exclusion of Press and public

To resolve: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public.

a) to receive update on staff sick leave.

RESOLVED:- to note the verbal report provided.

b) to consider Volunteer Town Litter Picker Position.

RESOLVED:- to agree to progress the appointment of a volunteer litter picker for the town for a 3 month trial period subject to the guidelines included in the report and the following additional conditions.

- That Cllrs Meakin, Hill and Everett (reserve) to act as mentors of the volunteer for the first two weeks to ensure that the guidelines are understood and that the Volunteer Litter Picker is prepared to follow them and stick to the agreed area.
- That the volunteer be allowed to litter pick for the Town Council during the trial period twice a week for a maximum of 2.5 hours each time.
- That the Town Clerk be given authority to amend the guidelines and litter picking area following discussions with the volunteer and their guardian.

Meeting ended 21.00

Mayor.....