

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 19.00 on the Zoom Virtual Meeting platform.

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, R Dodd, R Drummond, P Johnson, C Granger, M Meakin, C Mellings, J Murray, G Nash, E Towers, G Soul.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

2 Members of the public present, 1 member of the press

**200/20 To receive apologies and reasons for absence**

**RESOLVED**:- to accept the following apology for absence, Cllr Edge.

**201/20 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>
Cllr Mellings, Cllr 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
Cllr Granger	206/20aai Planning Application 20/02221/FUL, knows applicant.	
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Towers	Item 209/20 Directors WS&LC Ltd	Dispensation to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to WSLC

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

**202/20 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public stated that he was in objection to the proposed reversal of the one-way system on Chapel Street and Leek Street.

**203/20 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**RESOLVED:-** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on the zoom virtual meeting platform on 28.5.20 be approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Mayor.

**204/20 Covid 19 Operational Matters**

a) Decisions made under delegated powers and Scheme of delegation – to receive a report on.

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

b) Social Distancing Measures throughout the town – for update.  
Cllr Towers updated the Council on the proposals for social distancing measures put forward by Shropshire Council that had been discussed by Wem Economic Forum Traffic Working Group. He explained that the scheme now proposed by Shropshire Council was not as comprehensive as the one the group had requested and that this was disappointing. Cllr Mellings explained that the proposed one way system was a much reduced proposal and involved making a section of the High Street and New Street one way as well as the reversal of the existing one way system on Chapel Street and Leek Street. He explained that the proposals would be in the form of an experimental traffic order and could be removed if the scheme did not work. Cllr Dee explained that the decision to include the reversal of Leek Street/ Chapel Street oneway system was because this order was planned to be implemented anyway following the outcome of a public consultation held 18 months ago but delayed by Shropshire Council Highways. Views were expressed by councillors on the limitations of what was being proposed. Cllr Dee declared an interest in this item as a resident of Chapel Street. Cllr Dee and Cllr Glover abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED:-** to support Shropshire Council's proposals on the proviso that there is a full consultation with the wider community at the end of the experimental order.

**205/20 Progress report** - To consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

**RESOLVED:-** to note.

**206/20 Planning Applications.**

**a) Planning Applications for consideration**

i) APPEAL Notification 17/01924/FUL Appeal Ref 20/02813/REF Land Off, Mill Street, Wem, Shropshire Erection of two blocks of residential care home comprising 50.no units with communal facilities; formation of car parking; diversion of public right of way and associated works. A discussion took place on this application, Cllr Dee offered to speak at the appeal if the need arose. Cllr Nash reported that he had carried out an archaeological walk-over survey of the site and his findings suggested that land immediately west of Wem Mill constitutes a significant archaeological resource, revealing important information of Mill Street's industrial past.

**RESOLVED:-** to submit the following additional information  
To make the inspector aware of the findings of the archaeological walk over survey of the area carried out by Cllr Nash.

ii) 20/02221/FUL Erection of 2No. bungalows, formation of access and parking, 8 Crabtree Lane Wem SY4 5AJ - Cllr Granger left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

**RESOLVED:- to object to the application on the following grounds; Over development of the site.**

Cllr Granger returned to the meeting.

iii) 20/02261/FUL - Alterations in connection with conversion of former doctors surgery into one residential dwelling Location: - The Doctors Surgery, Roden Grove, Wem,

**RESOLVED:- not to object to the application.**

**b) Planning Decisions** – to note. Councillors expressed dismay at the refusal of the planning application 20/00075/FUL and the Clerk was asked to add this matter to a future agenda item.

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

**207/20 Finance and Accounts for Payment**

a) Monthly budget report and balance sheet - for consideration. It was reported that the monthly checks carried out by The Mayor as part of the Town Council's internal controls had recommenced.

**RESOLVED:- to note.**

b) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment and payments made prior to meeting under delegated authority.

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

**Payments made before meeting**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Talk Talk	Broadband	17.95	3.59	21.54	DD

**Payments for approval**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
PG Skips	Cemetery & Recreation	88.68	17.76	106.44	54.20
	Ground Bin Emptying				
	Skip Hire Burial 15.6.20	90.00	18.00	108.00	
	Total	178.68	35.76	214.44	
Mr McKean	Allotment rent refund	10.00		10.00	55.20
Town Clerk Expenses	Covid Safety Stickers	6.31	1.26	7.57	55a.20
	Social Distancing Signs	4.96	.99	5.95	
	Zoom annual charge	119.51	23.98	143.41	

	Total	130.78	26.23	156.93	
JSL Water Systems	Wood Protector for Cemetery Noticeboard	15.47		15.47	56.20
Ricoh	Copy costs	38.51	7.70	46.21	57.20
	lease 1.6.20-31.8.20	105.01	21.00	126.01	
	Total	143.52	28.70	172.22	
West Mercia Energy	Public Toilets - Electricity April 2020	41.98	11.45	50.38	58.20
Mills Garden Services	Plants and planting for floral display	1137.12		1137.12	59.20
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning June	65.00		65.00	60.20
Viking	Office supplies	43.90	8.8	52.60	61.20
Shropshire Council	Salaries	8181.66		8181.66	62.20
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning June	829.17	165.83	995.00	63.20
Ray Parry	Play equipment repairs	1376.00	275.20	1651.20	64.20
Onecom	Telephone Charges	54.51	10.90	65.41	DD
Unity Trust	Quarterly charges	12.40		12.40	DD

c) Photocopier lease – to approve lease for replacement of office photocopier.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the proposed 5 year lease with Ricoh.**

d) Payroll contract with Shropshire Council – to approve.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the payroll contract with Shropshire Council for 2020-21.**

**208/20 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 16.6.20** - to receive minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made. Cllr Johnson gave a report of this meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:- to receive the minutes and approve the recommendation within.**

**209/20 Swimming Pool Pipework Excavation and Reinstatement** – to consider quotes received.

a) For excavation and reinstatement. Cllr Towers and Cllr Mellings outlined the need for the work to be carried out soon so that the pool would not be required to close again once the current restrictions are lifted. Prior to the vote Cllr Mellings and Cllr Towers left the meeting and took no part in discussions.

**RESOLVED:- to award the contract for the excavation and reinstatement of to Garoll Construction Services.**

b) for installation of new pipework.

The Clerk explained that only one quote had been received for the work as due to the current lockdown period it was difficult to seek quotes for this specialist work and that the company who had quoted had a detailed knowledge of the workings of the pool.

**RESOLVED:- to**

- Suspend standing orders to allow for only one quote to be considered for this work.
- Award the contract for the installation of new pipework at the pool to Shropshire Pools and Spas
- That payment would be made for all the work including the excavation and reinstatement of pipework from the Bulmer Cottage Account.

Cllr Mellings and Cllr Towers returned to the meeting.

**210/20 Wem Store Cupboard** - to receive a report on the work of Wem Store Cupboard Group during lockdown and consider future plans.

The report circulated by the Clerk was considered and it was noted that the Methodist Church had also played a significant role in the provision of emergency support. It was explained that the group had identified the need to produce a third information leaflet that would contain details of the availability of amongst other things financial and mental health support. Thanks were expressed for the work of this group and suggestions were made for funding the leaflet.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the recommendations detailed in the report and that**

- Subject to funding being secured, the Town Council produce a third leaflet to be distributed to all properties in the town.
- The Town Council continues to support the work of Wem Store Cupboard Group to develop new initiatives.

**211/20 2019-20 Annual Report** – to consider producing an online only version (to follow). The Clerk apologised it had not been possible to circulate the draft in time for the meeting but that this would be circulated as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED:- that once complete to approve the publishing of the annual report online only.**

**212/20 Correspondence**

a) To consider request from residents to adopt the public open space at Wilmott Meadow. It was reported that the Highways will be adopted by Shropshire Council however as the public open spaces were managed by a maintenance company it was unclear if they could be adopted by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:- to refer this matter to the next Amenities and Services Committee and in the meantime the Clerk was instructed to discuss the situation further with representatives of the residents.**

b) Community Speedwatch Initiative. It was reported that a member of Wem Economic Forum Traffic Working Group had agreed to act as a volunteer Co-Ordinator for this initiative.

**RESOLVED:- to note**

Cllr Mellings left the meeting at 20.35

**213/20 Reports**

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Cllr Dee reported that the exterior of Wem Youth Club had had a makeover and the building is looking much better. Councillors expressed their thanks for the work that has been carried out as it has improved the building significantly.

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

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee. Concern was raised with Cllr Dee over the quality of the pothole repair at the entrance to the co-op car park which was very poor.

**RESOLVED:- to note.**

**214/20 Future agenda items** – for consideration Councillor's opportunity to raise items for inclusion on the next agenda – None raised.

**215/20 Date of next meeting** – for consideration

**RESOLVED:- that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**216/20 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) Morgan Library – to consider report of meeting held with Shropshire Council on 16.6.20.

**RESOLVED:- that**

- **The Town Council agrees in principle to enter into negotiations with Shropshire Council to lease the front section of the Morgan Library subject to due diligence checks and an agreement relating to the residential property.**
- **The Town Council establishes a working party comprised of Cllr Glover, Cllr Mellings, Cllr Broomhall and Cllr Drummond with the remit of:  
Seeking advice and information from other communities who have taken on a lease to a building owned by Shropshire Council as part of the community asset transfer process.  
Undertaking due diligence checks on the property.  
Drawing up a plan of how the Town Council will fund, procure and manage the renovation of the building.**

Meeting ended 21.00

Mayor.....