

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 28th July 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

1 member of the public present 1 member of the press

Lezley Picton Leader of Shropshire Council attended the meeting to provide an update on and answer questions on the work of Shropshire Council.

Lezley explained that the Council had listened to the public and prioritised Highway repairs over the last 12 months. She explained that producing a balanced budget continues to be a challenge as funds are being removed by the Government and that 86% of net budget is spent on Social Care which leaves a small pot of funds for everything else. She also reported that the boundary review is currently looking at Unitary Councillor wards and once this is complete parish boundaries will be considered.

A question was asked about Highways and the point was made about the lack of investment in Wem – Lezley reported that Cllr Ed Potter is looking at creating a taskforce for the town to provide more support for Wem.

An update was requested on the North West Relief Road – Lezley explained that there are outstanding objections from the EA and Natural England which is delaying the process as these need to be discussed. It is hoped that the application will go to the Northern Planning Committee in November.

Planning in Wem was raised and concerns over the lack of support from planning officers especially in relation to developments that the Town Council have supported which would have regenerated a brownfield site in the centre of town.

The issue of the need for a one-way system was raised and Councillors expressed the view that they felt let down by Shropshire Council in relation to this project.

In response to a question about the Shared Prosperity Fund, Lezley explained that this fund will be administered by the Economic Task Force and it is hoped that further details will come out in the early Autumn.

269/22 To note apologies for absence received.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Drummond, Everett, Edge and Hoffmann.

270/22 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

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers and Broomhall	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's	Dispensations to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council

	relationship with Shropshire Council	
Cllr Towers	Bias interest item 276/22 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to speak but not vote
Cllr Soul	Wem Town Hall bias interest as trustee of Wem Town Hall	Dispensation to discuss but not vote

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

None received.

271/22 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
A member of public issued a request for any historical photographs or information Councillors may have regarding Aston Street
A question was asked about the ownership of The White Horse.
Wem Warm Hub project was welcomed and it was suggested that this needed to be linked in with when the town bus service was running.

272/22 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 30th June 2022.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 30.6.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

273/22 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note.

274/22 Planning Applications

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

To consider the following planning applications

22/03221/FUL 34 Noble Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5DT

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, installation of bi-folding doors on existing rear wall and amendment to the landing window on the rear of the property.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as it will improve the property and is in keeping with the building.

22/03222/LBC 34 Noble Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5DT

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, installation of bi-folding doors on existing rear wall and amendment to the landing window on the rear of the property affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as it will improve the property and is in keeping with the building.

275/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment

a) Monthly Budget report – to note.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

RESOLVED:- to note that the Mayor had undertaken the June internal control checks.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment (presented at meeting).

RESOLVED:- to note the following Payments made prior to meeting

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS No
Shropshire Council	Salaries July	6160.04		6160.04	BACSPAYROLL
	LGPS July	1981.26		1981.26	BACSLGPS
	HMRC June	2148.49		2148.49	BACSHMRC
EE	Mobile Phone		8.50	51.01	DD
Business to Business	Broadband			44.98	DD
Onecom	Telephone May	34.54	6.91	41.45	DD

RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Bacs No
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	96.84	19.36	116.20	76.22
Shropshire Council	Office Hire	1525.00	0.00	1525.00	77.22
Wem Town Hall	Licence for Jubilee Film	133.00	26.60	159.60	78.22
The Web Orchard	Website	190.00	38.00	228.00	79.22
ISM IT Ltd	Computer Contract	92.97	18.59	111.56	80.22
Save our Shropshire	Climate Change Training	55.00	0.00	55.00	81.22
SYA	Heads Up Provision	2000.00	400.00	2400.00	82.22
West Mercia Energy	Toilets Electricity	34.98	1.75	36.73	83.22
DW Evans	Grave Digging June	275.00	0.00	275.00	84.22
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	85.22
Viking	Stationery	62.48	12.50	74.98	86.22
Taylor's	Rec Toilet Alterations	2175.00	435.00	2610.00	87.22
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	70.00	0.00	70.00	88.22
Shrewsbury Town Council	Grass Cutting April/May	2240.00	448.00	2688.00	89.22
SALC	VAT training	30.00	0.00	30.00	90.22
WH Darby	Engraving	12.80	2.56	15.36	91.22

Play safety	Annual Equipment inspection	560.00	112.00	672.00	92.22
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	35.00	0.00	35.00	DD

RESOLVED:- to suspend Financial Regulations to allow the following purchase of Lamp Post Poppies on the Clerk's personal credit card.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS No
RBL Poppy Appeal (reimbursement to P O'Hagan)	Lamp post poppies	120.00	0.00	120.00	93.22

d) To consider arrangements for payment of accounts during summer recess.

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to approve the following payments during the Summer recess.

- regular monthly payments
- payments that orders have been issued for
- any emergency payments

276/22 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Liaison Group Meeting 13.7.22

a) To receive draft notes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to receive the notes of the meeting held on 13.7.22 and the recommendation contained within.

b) To discuss condition of the pool floor and wall tiles.

A general discussion took place on this item and the Clerk explained that she had not received any further details on the work required so it was not possible to provide any more information.

RESOLVED:- to defer this to the next meeting of the Council.

c) To consider request to increase charges for users as per the terms of the lease.

It was explained that the board have no option to increase prices due to increase in the overall costs.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following price increases

	Current Prices	Price from Sept 2022
Adult Swim	£4.20	£4.50
Senior Swim	£3.20	£3.50
Junior Swim	£3.20	£3.50
Student Swim	£3.50	£3.80
Family Swim	£12.00	£13.00
Aquafit	£5.00	£5.30
PAYG Gym	£4.00	£4.30

Full membership Annual	£200.00	£210.00
Full membership DD	£20.00	£21.00
Full membership monthly casual	£22.00	£23.00
Swim only membership Annual	£160.00	£170.00
Swim only membership DD	£16.00	£17.00
Swim only membership Monthly Casual	£18.00	£19.00
Gym only Annual	£140.00	£160.00
Gym only DD	£14.00	£16.00
Gym only monthly casual	£16.00	£18.00
Swimming lessons from Jan 2023	£7	£7.40

d) To consider request to nominate an additional Town Councillor to sit on Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre board.

RESOLVED:- to nominate Cllr Glover as an additional representative to sit on Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Board.

277/22 Finance and Corporate Governance Committee 19.7.22 – to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19.7.22 and approve the recommendations within the minutes.

278/22 Town Hall Liaison Group Meeting 27.7.22 – to receive a verbal report from this meeting and any recommendations made.

RESOLVED:- to

- receive the report of the meeting held on 27.7.22.
- to establish a working party comprising of Cllr Granger, Cllr Dodd, Cllr Meakin, Cllr Parry, Cllr Towers, Cllr Hill to undertake a review of the running of the weekly market and the current service level agreement to run the market with Wem town Hall and make recommendations to Full Council.

279/22 Boundary Review – to consider report from working group meeting on 21.7.22. Cllr Parry presented this item and the findings of the working party, following a discussion it was

RESOLVED:- to submit an expression of interest to Shropshire Council to request that, in any current or future review of parish boundaries, the Wem Town Boundary be adjusted to incorporate Ash Grove, Round Meadow, Wem Industrial Estate and the Lower Lacon Caravan Park.

280/22 Creation of a Wem Warm Hub - to discuss.
A discussion took place on the best time and day to hold the session and the view was expressed that it should be on a day when the town bus was running.

RESOLVED:- to authorise the clerk to undertake further research into the establishment of a Warm Hub Project in the town and report back at the next meeting.

281/22 Wem Traffic Project – to consider response from Shropshire Council in relation to the cost of the feasibility study as quoted by WSP.
Councillors expressed disappointment at the costs stated and the fact that the Highways officers involved with this project were no longer dealing with this work for Shropshire Council as any commitment to support the proposals had been lost.

RESOLVED:- that members of the Traffic Working Party take up the offer of holding a meeting with a representative of WSP to discuss the matter further.

282/22 Heads Up project – to approve the running of the project for a further year. The Clerk reported that all involved with the project had indicated that they were pleased with how it was working in the schools and wished for it to continue. It was explained that funds for an additional year had been secured.

RESOLVED:- to approve the running of the project for a further academic year.

283/22 Painting Play Equipment – to consider quotes received.

RESOLVED:- to award the contract to paint the recreation ground play equipment to S.J.Llewellyn-Jenkins and Co Painting & Decorating.

284/22 Purchase of Ukraine Flags to discuss (deferred from May meeting).

RESOLVED:- not to proceed with this item.

285/22 Correspondence - to discuss the following items (copy enclosed)

i) Shropshire's Draft Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027 – for consideration registration consultation.

RESOLVED:- to delegate to the Clerk to respond to the strategy with a strong emphasis on the need to retain support for smaller market towns.

286/22 Reports

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. A report from a recent Christmas Festival Committee meeting was received.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers.

RESOLVED:- to note the report received from Cllrs Tower and Broomhall.

287/22 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.*
Co-op Car park hedge maintenance

288/22 Dates of future meetings –

a) To note the date and time of September meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the next ordinary meeting will be held on 29.9.22 but to hold an extraordinary meeting on 1.9.22 to deal with various matters that would require a decision prior to 29.9.22.

289/22 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) Town Council Office lease.

RESOLVED:- to defer to September ordinary meeting as no further information had been received in time for the meeting.

Meeting ended at 20.45

Mayor.....