

Minutes of an ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 29th September 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

Present:- Councillors, R Dodd (Deputy Mayor), P Broomhall, R Drummond, P Glover, M Hoffmann, M Meakin, D Parry, E Towers.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

10 members of the public present

Councillors marked the recent passing of Honorary Townsman Brian Bailey and former Councillor Ted Davies.

Inspector Greenaway and PC Heathcote attended the start of the meeting to discuss policing issues in Wem Town and the work of Wem SNT.

Several questions were asked by members of the public and councillors concerning the early closure of the fair on carnival evening. Inspector Greenaway explained the background to the decision to issue guidance that the WSSA impose an early closure of the fair of 19.00 on the evening of Wem Carnival. It was suggested by Inspector Greenaway that a separate meeting should take place between members of the community, Wem SNT, representatives from WSSA and Wem Carnival Committee to discuss the matter further.

301/22 To note apologies for absence received.

The following apologies were noted Cllrs Soul, Johnson, Hill, Granger and Edge.

302/22 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 relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensations to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Parry	Agenda item 16c Correspondence P3 project member of the group	

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

RESOLVED:- to award a dispensation to Cllr Glover to allow him to speak but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

303/22 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public requested that the Town Council go ahead with the feasibility study into the traffic situation in Wem.

304/22 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held on 28th July 2022 and 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 28.7.22 and 1.9.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Deputy Mayor.

305/22 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

306/22 Planning Applications

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the decisions.

b) To consider the following planning applications

22/04148/FUL The Old Surgery, Roden Grove, Wem, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of prefabricated single wooden garage/work area.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

307/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Monthly Budget report – to note.

RESOLVED:- to note the monthly budget report and balance sheet.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

The Deputy Mayor reported that all internal control checks including payroll checks were up to date.

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 September	9730.19		5691.48 1907.44 2131.27	BACSPAY BACSLGPS BACSHMRC

EE	Mobile Phone			53.71	DD
Onecom	Telephone	34.82	6.96	41.78	DD
Nayax	RGT contactless payment				Debit from sales
Unity Trust Bank	BACS Charges - August	17.54	0.00	17.54	DD

RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
ISM-IT Ltd	IT Support	92.97	18.59	111.56	110.22
WME	Energy – Car Park Toilets	32.80	1.64	34.44	111.22
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	121.05	24.20	145.25	112.22
Highline	Street Light Structural Survey	1012.00	202.40	1214.40	113.22
Highline	Queensway Lighting Column	1490.36	298.07	1788.43	114.22
Rural Services Partnership	Rural Market Towns Group Membership	84.75	16.95	101.70	115.22
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning	70.00	0.00	70.00	116.22
DW Evans	Gravedigging (August)	630.00	0.00	630.00	117.22
Highline	Annual street light electrical survey	595.00	119.00	714.00	118.22
Waterplus	Water supply – Allotments August	105.42	21.08	126.50	119.22
M Nye	Refunded excavation costs	125.00	0.00	125.00	120.22
Highline	BT Poles Wemsbrook	3675.37	735.07	4410.44	121.22
Ricoh	Copier charges	194.66	38.93	233.59	122.22
Severn Trent	Water – Rec Toilets	31.31	0.00	31.31	123.22
Viking	Stationery	81.80	16.36	98.16	124.22
Healthmatic	Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	125.22
David Murray	Floral planters	3885.00	0.00	3885.00	126.22
Seasons	Floral tributes	68.50	0.00	68.50	127.22
Cllr Dodd	Mayoral Expenses	55.00	0.00	55.00	128.22
Waterplus	Water– Allotments Sept	26.46	5.29	31.75	129.22
Waterplus	Water supply toilets Sept	41.03	0.00	41.03	130.22
Security Wise	CCTV Engineer Visit	264.00	52.80	316.80	131.22
Kings	Padlock	8.29	1.66	9.95	300117
Unity Bank	Quarterly charges cheq/cash	14.70	0.00	14.70	DD
Unity Bank	Quarterly charges transactions	34.80	0.00	34.80	DD

d) External Audit – to note the completion of external audit for the year 2021-22. The Clerk reported that the AGAR for 2021-22 had been concluded with no matters raised and it had been advertised in accordance with the regulations.

RESOLVED:- to note.

e) External audit Opt Out Options – to consider correspondence received.

RESOLVED:- not to opt out of the external audit central procurement and appointment scheme.

308/22 Amenities and Services Committee 27.9.22 – to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.
It was reported that this meeting was cancelled as it was not quorate and had been rescheduled to the 6th October 2022.

309/22 Wem Economic Forum meeting 21.9.22 – to receive a report from.
It was reported that a very positive meeting was held and a strategy was being developed in partnership with Wem Rural Parish Council and Shropshire Council. Councillors were urged to let the Town Clerk know about any other potential projects that they might want to see progressed.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

310/22 Wem Advice Leaflet - to consider draft and agree distribution.
The distribution list was considered and approved. The Clerk reported that 3 quotes had been received for printing.

RESOLVED:- to approve the final draft and approve quote of £487 provided by Rightsort printing for printing 3500 copies and sorting into envelopes.

311/22 Mayoral Chain proposals for alterations – to discuss quote received and options open to the Town Council.
It was reported that the Town Clerk was waiting for a further quote which would be to create a working chain so that the existing chains can be retired.

RESOLVED:- to defer this item until an amended quote has been received.

312/22 Finance training – to approve quote.

RESOLVED:- to approve the quote received and confirm finance training with Steve Parkinson on 17.11.22 which will take place via zoom.

313/22 Wem Traffic Project – to consider response from Shropshire Council in relation to the cost of the feasibility study as quoted by WSP.
The Clerk explained that since the July meeting it had become clear that a fee would be charged for holding a face to face meeting with a representative from WSP therefore this item had not been progressed until councillors had a chance to discuss the cost of a face to face meeting. The Clerk updated the Council that a virtual meeting had been offered for free.

RESOLVED:- to set up a virtual meeting with a representative from WSP.

314/22 Councillor Vacancy – to discuss and to note deadline for co-option applications.

RESOLVED:- to advertise the vacancy for co-option with a closing date of 19.10.22 so that a new Councillor can be co-opted at the October meeting.

315/22 Wem Sports and Social Association's Recreation Ground hire conditions for Wrights Fair – to discuss (at request of Cllr Hoffmann).

A general discussion took place on this issue and councillors were reminded that the hire of the Recreation Ground is the sole responsibility of Wem Sports and Social Association and nothing to do with the Town Council.

No proposal received on this item.

316/22 Correspondence - to discuss the following items

a) Visit Shropshire Request.

RESOLVED:- to turn down the offer to present at a Town Council meeting.

b) Scout and Guide Hut Committee – Trustees request.

RESOLVED:- to defer to the next meeting when more Councillors are present.

c) Parish Paths Partnership – to consider request for storage space.

Cllr Parry left the room and took no part in discussions.

A discussion took place on this item and it was

RESOLVED:- to allow the use of one of the disused sections of the Recreation Ground toilets for storage of tools by the Parish Paths Partnership Group on a temporary basis subject to

- The Town Council's insurance company permitting the use of the space for storage.
- The space not being used for storage of fuels, lubricants weedkillers.
- The agreement being reviewed on a 6 month basis.

Cllr Parry returned to the meeting.

317/22 Co-op Car Park Hedge Maintenance – to discuss (*item requested at July meeting*).

It was reported that this item has already been dealt with and the hedges cut.

318/22 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.
A written report was received from Cllr Towers and Broomhall.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

319/22 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*

To discuss building a permanent structure to commemorate the Queen Elizabeth II in the town e.g bandstand.

To discuss putting in a bid to Shropshire Council to cover costs to renovate the swimming pool and rebuild the sports and social club.

320/22 Dates of future meetings –

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

RESOLVED:- that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th October 2022.

321/22 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 – to approve signing of and consider submitting an extension request for a further 1 year term.

RESOLVED:- to approve the lease and authorise Cllr Dodd and Cllr Parry to sign the office lease for the Town Council offices in Edinburgh House and to request a 1 year extension on this lease to 31.3.24.

b) Future ownership of the White Horse – to discuss correspondence received from Shropshire Council.

A discussion took place on the request received from Shropshire Council to contribute towards the redevelopment of this building.

RESOLVED:- not to progress this matter due to the financial restrictions on the Town Council.

c) Morgan Library – to consider a report on discussions held concerning future of the library on 22.9.22.

A discussion took place on whether to reopen discussions with Shropshire Council concerning the asset transfer of the building from Shropshire Council to the town Council. Councillors expressed the view that the renovation of the building should be undertaken and paid for by Shropshire Council as the Town Council has other financial priorities relating to its own assets.

Cllr Drummond left the meeting at 20.45.

RESOLVED:- not to reopen discussions with Shropshire Council to transfer the ownership of the Morgan Library to the Town Council under the asset transfer regulations, due to the condition of the building and the cost to renovate it.

Meeting ended at 20.50