

Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem

Present:- Councillors, R Dodd (Deputy Mayor), P Broomhall, R Drummond, K Edge, A Everett, P Glover, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, M Meakin, D Parry, E Towers,

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

2 members of the public present 1 member of the press

**249/22 To note apologies for absence received.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Soul and Cllr Hoffmann.

**250/22 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 Meakin	254/22i Bias interest in planning application 22/02335/FUL friend to applicant  254/22ii Bias interest in 22/02371/FUL neighbour to applicant	
Cllr Towers	254/22vi Bias interest in planning application 22/02718/FUL, friend of applicant	

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

None received.

**251/22 Public Participation** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of Wem Civic Society raised the issue of the recent sale of the White Horse and suggested that the Town Council should work in partnership with Shropshire Council and the owner to help bring the building back into use for the benefit of the town.

A member of Combine Harvesters congratulated the organisers of the Sweet Pea show and urged the Council to support Wem markets more to help them to expand.

A suggestion was made that more events should be held at the same time as the markets to increase footfall in the town.

**252/22 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26.5.22 be approved as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Deputy Mayor.**

**253/22 Progress report -** To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

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

**254/22 Planning Applications**

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

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

b) To consider the following planning applications

i) 22/02335/FUL Residential Development of 3 no dwellings together with associated external works and drainage, Coed Hill, Aston Road, Wem, SY4 5JD

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

**RESOLVED:- to object to the application for the following reasons:**

- **Overdevelopment of the site, the Council considers that 3 dwellings on the plot is too many for the space.**
- **Loss of Privacy - the Council consider that the proposals will result in an unacceptable loss of privacy for neighbouring properties.**
- **Sewage System – The Council is concerned about the impact of the proposals on the existing sewage system as there are already reported problems in the area.**
- **Highways Infrastructure – The Council is concerned about the impact that the proposed properties will have on the highways network in this part of Wem.**
- **The Council are particularly concerned that extra properties in this location will increase the number of cars using smaller roads as cut throughs like Cordwell Park and exacerbate the existing issues of traffic bottlenecking by Wem level crossing.**

ii) 22/02371/FUL, Conversion and extension of double garage to self contained annexe ancillary to main dwelling, Gladrays, Station Road, Wem, SY4 5BH

**RESOLVED:- to support the application as the Town Council consider this to be an appropriate development for the space and will not impact on neighbouring properties unduly.**

Cllr Meakin returned to the room.

iii) 22/02398/FUL, Conversion and extension of existing store/workshop to form 1no dwelling, Land East Of New Street, Wem, Shropshire.

**RESOLVED**:- to object to the application as the Town Council consider it to be overdevelopment of the site.

iv) 22/02421/FUL, Erection of a single storey pitched roof rear extension to existing bungalow acting as residential care home to create office, 24 Bowens Field, Wem, SY4 5AP.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application as it will not impact on neighbouring properties.

v) 22/02680/TCA, Works to a number of trees (T1-T8) (see schedule) within Wem Conservation Area, 14 Chapel Street, Wem, SY4 5ER.

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

vi) 22/02718/FUL, Erection of single storey front extension, installation of window in side elevation and formation of level driveway, Baobab House, 22A Noble Street, Wem, SY4 5DZ.

Cllr Towers left the room.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application as it will not impact on neighbouring properties.

Cllr Towers returned to the room.

vii) 22/02001/EIA Erection of three additional poultry units with associated air scrubber units, control rooms, feed blending rooms, feed bins, hardstandings, dirty water tanks and a drainage attenuation pond, together with retrofitting an air scrubber unit to an existing poultry shed, Meadowland, Sleaf, Harmer Hill, SY4 3HE

**RESOLVED**:- to request that the following condition be placed as part of any permission

**All vehicles leaving the site must head south along Burma Road to the B4576, where they turn left and head north towards Wem. At the outskirts of Wem, they must not travel through the town and instead turn right at the mini roundabout before the railway bridge and head southeast along the B5063 Shawbury Road to the A49, onto which they turn left to head north.**

viii) 22/01990/PA3MA - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)- Roden Grove Vets, 1 Roden Grove, Wem.

**RESOLVED**:- to support to the application as this is a residential area.

ix) 22/02850/TCA - To fell 1no. Sycamore (T10) within Wem Conservation Area - St Peter and St Pauls Church, High Street, Wem.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the application as the tree is in poor condition.

**255/22 Finance and Accounts for Payment .**

**a) Internal Control Report** – to note. The Clerk highlighted the need to improve the internal financial controls relating to monthly payroll as the payments were now made by BACS.

**RESOLVED:-** that

- The Mayor would sign off staff hours sheets prior to being sent to Shropshire Council for processing
- As part of the monthly internal controls the Mayor would specifically check that BACS payments relating to payment of salaries, pensions, HMRC contributions match the payroll reports provided by Shropshire Council.

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

**RESOLVED:-** to authorise the following payments made prior to the meeting

**Paid prior to meeting**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
TS Security	Radios For Jubilee	57.00	11.40	68.40	47.22
MW Medics	Jubilee first aid	362.00	72.40	434.40	48.22
J Bickley	Jubilee Book	6.67	1.33	8.00	49.22
Fireworks Factory	Fireworks (Jubilee)	650.00		650.00	50.22
Tom's Superwhip	Refund	30.00		30.00	51.22
Education sales	Sound and lighting Jubilee	1100.00	220.00	1320.00	52.22
Sue Holliday	Expenses Jubilee	32.20		32.20	53.22
Boels Rental Actual invoice	Generator Hire Deposit <i>Actual cost 874.50 Refund of £698.16 received 15.6.22</i>		145.75	1208.00	54.22
Kings	Broomsticks	30.00		30.00	300115
Petty Cash	Top up	75.00		75.00	300116
EE	Mobile Phone		8.50	51.01	DD
Onecom	Telephone May	34.54	6.91	41.45	DD
Shropshire Council	Salaries June LGPS June HMRC May	6067.48 1960.47 2148.49		6067.48 1960.47 2148.49	<b>BACS</b> Payroll Pension HMRC

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

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Sue Holliday	Stage security 3.6.22	50.00		50.00	55.22
Wem Baptist Church	Refugee Grant	500		500	56.22
Shropshire Council	Streetlight Energy Costs	1593.56	318.71	1912.27	57.22

West Mercia Energy	Toilets Energy	87.03	4.35	91.38	58.22
Highline	May Streetlight Repairs	100.00	20.00	120.00	59.22
Hunter Lloyd	EICR – Rec Toilets	150.00	30.00	180.00	60.22
Shropshire Council	H&S Services 22/23	620.00	124.00	744.00	61.22
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	121.05	24.20	145.25	62.22
DW Evans	Gravedigging May	565.00		565.00	63.22
Ricoh	Printer/Copier Charges	166.63	33.33	199.96	64.22
Mark Fitton	May cleaning	70.00		70.00	65.22
Hunter Lloyd	Electrical Work to Rec Toilets	775.00	155.00	930.00	66.22
WaterPlus	Toilet Surface Water Drainage	116.07		116.07	67.22
P O'Hagan	Reimbursement (Zoom Fee)	119.90	23.98	143.88	68.22
K Carter	Expenses (Jubilee)	233.08		233.08	69.22
St Peter & St Paul's Church	Armed Forces Day Refreshments	30.00		30.00	70.22
D Murray	Planters	450.00		450.00	71.22
D Murray	Cemetery Maintenance	755.00		755.00	72.22
Healthmatic	Cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	73.22
Shropshire Council	Elections 2021	200.00		200.00	74.22
MD Compliance Services	Old Toilet Block – recreation ground	275.00	55.00	330.00	75.22
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges May Quarterly cash/chq handling charge			17.68 15.00	DD

**c) BACS Limit** – to note increase of the monthly BACS limit.

It was reported that the BACS monthly limit had been raised to £15,000 and this was authorised prior to the meeting to prevent further bank charges.

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the increase of the monthly BACS payment limit to £15,000.

**256/22 Platinum Jubilee Celebration Steering Group washup meeting 14.6.22** – to consider report from this meeting and any recommendations made. Thanks were recorded for all the work that went into these events.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the report and approve the recommendations in the notes subject to the approval by Connexus for use of the grant underspend.

**257/22 Events Liaison Group Meeting 16.6.22** – to receive notes from this meeting and any recommendations made.

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the notes from the meeting.

**258/22 Amenities and Services Committee 21.6.22** – to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations made.

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the draft minutes from the meeting held 21.6.22.

**259/22 Boundary Review** – to receive a report following meeting held on 30.5.22 with representatives from Wem Rural Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the report and to nominate Cllr Parry, Cllr Drummond and Cllr Hill to establish a working party to consider this matter in more detail and report back to the July meeting.

**260/22 Carbon Literacy Training** – to discuss response received from Save our Shropshire.

**RESOLVED**:- to nominate Cllr Towers, Cllr Soul and Clerk to attend the training.

**261/22 Shropshire Council Consultations** - for consideration.

Library Strategy

The Clerk presented comments on the consultation which were considered by the Council.

**RESOLVED**:- to support the comments drafted by the Clerk for consideration.

Housing allocation policy

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

**262/22 Purchase of Ukraine Flags** - to discuss (deferred from May meeting).  
In the absence of Cllr Hoffmann it was

**RESOLVED**:- to defer a decision to the July meeting.

**263/22 Wem Economic Forum Relaunch** – to receive a verbal report on meetings held with Wem Rural PC on 30.5.22 and 27.6.22.  
The Clerk gave a verbal report on this item.

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

**264/22 Correspondence** - to discuss the following items.

i) CCTV Aerial Edinburgh House

**RESOLVED**:- that in the short term to authorise the Clerk to enter into discussions with the BBC over taking on ownership and responsibility for the aerial.

ii) To consider correspondence relating to re-joining Rural Market Town Group

**RESOLVED**:- to approve re-joining of the RMTG due to the specific support being offered to markets.

iii) Oswestry - Gobowen SOBC - Stakeholder Engagement

**RESOLVED:- not to comment as councillors do not consider the project to have any relevance to Wem.**

iv) Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance - joint letter

**RESOLVED:- to support the signing of the letter outlining concerns over food poverty in the county.**

v) Ellesmere Town Council – to consider request to send joint letter in support of 20's plenty campaign. Councillors were reminded of a resolution made September 2018. Agenda item 10c (Minute ref 76/18c) that stated that whilst the Council shares the campaign's concerns about pedestrian safety, it does not support the concept of a town wide 20mph speed limit as the Town Council does not consider that all roads in Wem are suitable for a 20mph speed limit and would therefore welcome a more targeted approach to speed limits on a street by street basis. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Town Council's position on this had not changed and it was

**RESOLVED:- not to send a collaborative letter of support for the campaign to Shropshire Council.**

vi) Police and Crime Commissioner - annual survey

**RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to respond to the survey.**

#### **265/22 Reports**

a) To receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Cllr Towers explained that he had included the Wem Area Climate Forum report as part of his report.

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

**RESOLVED:- to note the report circulated prior to the meeting.**

#### **266/22 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.***

Establishment of a project to provide support for those suffering from energy poverty.

#### **267/22 Dates of future meetings –**

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

**RESOLVED:- to note that the July meeting will be held on 28.7.22.**

#### **268/22 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) Honorary Townsman

**RESOLVED**:- to award Honorary Townsman status to John Murray.

b) Town Council Office

**RESOLVED**:- to reluctantly accept the responses from Shropshire Council to questions raised in the draft lease and to instruct the Clerk to take a photographic record of the condition of the Town Council offices.

Meeting ended at 20.45

Mayor.....