

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem on Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7 p.m.

Present:-Councillor R Dodd (Mayor) Councillors, E Towers (Deputy Mayor), D Boddy, P Broomhall, P Dee, P Glover, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray and C Shingler.

Mrs Susan Thornhill (Assistant Town Clerk).
Rev Adams said prayers at the start of the meeting
12 members of the public present.

165/17 To receive apologies for absence.

RESOLVED:- to accept the following apology for absence;
K Bailey

166/17 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 declarations of interest were declared.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Shropshire Councillor Cllr Dee and Cllr Mellings	Twin-hatted member declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation previously granted to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Towers and Moyse	Item 173/17 – Trustees of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Cllr Mellings and Cllr Towers Dispensation previously granted to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

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

167/17 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards raised the following issues:-

- He thanked Cllr Mellings for sorting out the bus stop in Mill Street.
- He said there had been very few elections in the last 30 years and asked that if anybody knew of anyone who was interested that they contact the Town Clerk for further information.

A resident of Roden Grove asked that the Town Councillors scrutinise the detail on reserved matters relating to the development land in Roden Grove.

168/17 Council Minutes. - to approve as a correct record the minutes of an ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 26th January 2017 (copy previously circulated).

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 26th January 2017 as a correct record and they were duly signed by the Mayor.

169/17 Progress report - to note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

170/17 Planning Applications

a) Planning Applications for consideration

i) 16/02959/FUL Shropshire Council Planning Re-consultation – Amendment Tony Moss Motor Cycles.

Councillors welcomed the changes and continue to support the application.

RESOLVED:- to support the amendments to this application.

b) To note the recent planning decisions (copy previously circulated).

The Assistant Town Clerk updated Councillors with recent decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note.

c) Planning and Transport Committee Meeting 9.2.17 - to receive these minutes and approve the recommendations relating to the Local Development Plan Review contained therein (copy previously circulated).

Councillors approved the recommendations relating to the Local Development review and it was pointed out that this formed part of the SamDev Review, reviewing in 2026.

RESOLVED:- to receive the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 9th February 2017 and to approve the recommendations therein including the response to the Local Development Plan Review.

d) Briefing Note - To note Shropshire Council's Briefing Note for Parish Councils on proposed changes and clarification to the planning consultation processes.

RESOLVED:- to note.

171/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment

a) To approve accounts for payment and any payments made prior to meeting.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments.

Accounts paid prior to the meeting on 23.2.17

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq number
Shropshire Council	Payroll	6561.99	12.72	6574.71	DD

Accounts for authorisation

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS No
E.on	6 month street lighting contract	1895.11	379.02	2274.13	BACS 58
PG Skips	Recreation bin emptying	51.24	10.25	61.49	BACS 59
	Cemetery bin emptying	32.44	6.49	38.93	
	Skip	69.00	13.80	82.80	
	Total			183.22	
Viking	Stamps and stationery	94.86	7.97	102.83	BACS 60
SALC	Training business planning	60.00		60.00	BACS 61
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning February	45.00		45.00	BACS 62
E.on	Lighting repairs	591.40	118.28	709.68	BACS 63
Severn Trent Water	Water Supply Allotments & Cemetery	48.99		48.99	BACS 64
	Water Supply Public Toilets	278.84		278.84	
	Total			327.83	
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

b) Shropshire Council Payroll Contract – to approve quote for 2017-2018 payroll.

RESOLVED:-To approve the quote for 2017-2018.

172/17 Finance and Corporate Governance Committee meeting 14.2.17 - to receive these minutes and approve the recommendations therein.

Cllr Mellings presented these minutes and highlighted the recommendations contained therein. Regarding item 10 Cllr Mellings said he had taken advice from the County Council Solicitor on the role of Town Councillors on outside bodies to which they are appointed.

Cllr Towers referred to item 8 of these minutes (Staffing) and would like to thank Brian Humphreys for his many years of service and to pass on the appreciation of the Town Council.

RESOLVED:- to receive the minutes of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee held on 14th February 2017 and to approve the recommendations therein.

173/17 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Liaison Group meeting 8.2.17 - to receive these minutes.

RESOLVED:- to receive the minutes of the Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group held on 8th February 2017.

- 174/17 Recreation Ground Toilet Block** - to consider recent damage to the toilet block and consider future use.

Cllr Mrs Dee said that a number of suggestions for use of the building had been received as a result of this item being featured on a local social media site. She has also spoken with the 'Men in Sheds' Group to see if they would be interested in progressing the project as a Community Group. Cllr Mrs Dee suggested this be further discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 March 2017 and requested permission to advertise this.

RESOLVED:- to defer this item to the Wem Annual Parish Meeting on 9 March 2017 for further discussion and to see if there is any public interest in developing this project further.

- 175/17 Wem Postal Addresses** – to consider the problems faced by residents when Wem is not included as part of the postal addresses.

Cllr Mrs Dee referred to an incident involving a Wem resident arising from the fact that the Town name of Wem had not been included in the postal address, she said that Wem was a town in its own right and as such should be included in the postal address. She mentioned that the press had been in touch with Royal Mail who responded that for purposes of delivering mail they use the Post Code. It was also mentioned that Wem & Shrewsbury have several street names the same which added to the confusion.

RESOLVED:- to write to Royal Mail explaining that Wem residents are still experiencing problems and that consideration be given to the inclusion of Wem in the postal address and the removal of Shrewsbury.

- 176/17 Insurance** – to discuss the difficulties experienced by Wem residents in obtaining home insurance (item requested by Cllr Mellings).

Cllr Mellings reported that this was not a new issue in the South West part of the town and that some residents of Roden Grove had been quoted up to £1,000 for home insurance and in some cases companies will not insure at all. It is not clear what this is based on but it appears that the postcode is linked to mapping information provided by the Environment Agency on flood risk. It was suggested that enquiries be made with the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council Flood & Water Management Department to see if this was something happening generally and to express the concerns of local residents. Cllr Mellings referred to a map issued by the Environment Agency showing the flood plain in this area and asked that enquiries are made regarding how up to date this map was.

RESOLVED:-to contact The Environment Agency and Shropshire Council Flood & Water Management Department and to make enquiries of the Environment Agency regarding an up to date map of the extent of the flood plain in the Roden Grove area.

- 177/17 Correspondence** – to consider the following items of correspondence (copies previously circulated)
- a) HGV letter
 - b) Parking Enforcement

RESOLVED:-to receive the above correspondence.

178/17 Reports

a)To receive reports from the Council’s representatives to other bodies.
Cllr Dodd reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the Robert Hill & Noble Street Charity.

RESOLVED:- to note this report

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.
Cllr Mellings circulated a written report which was considered and noted.

RESOLVED:- to note this report.

179/17 Future agenda items – for consideration.

Cllr Murray asked that the Clerk request that a representative of Wem Police attend a meeting of the Town Council before the AGM to give a report.

RESOLVED:- to agree that this item be placed on a future agenda.

180/17 Dates of future meetings – To note date of the March meeting and agree date of May meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the March meeting would take place on 30.3.17 and it was agreed that the May meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 May 2017.

181/17 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 discuss procedure for complaint hearing.

It was reported that the Council had received a formal complaint. The Council considered its Complaints Procedure and it was agreed that the complaint should be investigated by a person independent of the Town Council.

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to take this matter forward.

Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m

Mayor.....