

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

2 members of the public present, 1 member of the press.

**65/19 To receive apologies for absence.**

**RESOLVED**:- to accept the following apologies for absence

R Dodd, P Broomhall, P Johnson

**66/19 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests.**

a) To receive any disclosures 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.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
Cllr Mellings and 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 Mellings	Item 71/19 WSLC director	Dispensation to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to WSLC
Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee	Item Fire Authority members 79d/19	
Cllr Towers	Item 71/19 WSLC director	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

**67/19 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A representative from Heritage Wem reported that the heritage weekend was well supported. It was reported that the event relies heavily on volunteers and there is a need for someone to co-ordinate a "What's on in Wem" diary as this would also benefit the Combine Harvesters in the organisation of the market. A representative from Wem Civic Society raised the need for some more destination signposts in the town to help visitors find their way around it was suggested that this was something that the Economic Forum could take on or the idea could be considered during budget discussions.

**68/19 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**RESOLVED:-** that the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**69/19 Progress report** - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

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

**70/19 Planning Applications.**  
a) To note the recent planning decisions.

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

b) To consider the following planning application  
19/03982/FUL The Firs, Park Road, Wem, SY4 5DA Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.

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

**71/19 Finance and Accounts for Payment**  
a) To consider monthly financial statement and monthly budget report.  
The Clerk presented the monthly financial statement.

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

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

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

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq BAC No
Shropshire Council	Streetlight energy charge 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1708.70	341.74	2050.44	48.19
PG Skips Ltd	Skip Delivery x 2 Interments	165.00	33.00	198.00	49.19
Viking	Stationery	98.85	7.57	106.42	50.19
Eon	Lantern upgrade to LED Lowe Hill Road	309.81	61.96	371.77	51.19
PG Skips	Cemetery Bin July	41.55	8.31	49.86	52.19
	Rec. Ground Bin	65.05	13.01	78.06	
	Emptying July				
	Total	106.60	21.32	127.92	
Wem Town Council	Mayor's Expenses	25.60		25.60	53.19
Shropshire Council	External Payroll recharge August	7,760.65		7,760.65	54.19
Mark Fitton	Cleaning of Bus Shelters August 2019	265.00		265.00	55.19
Severn Business Solutions	Licences	194.40	38.88	233.28	56.19

ORP	CCTV repair	400.00	80.00	480.00	57.19
Shropshire Pools & Spas	Wem Swimming Pool Heat Exchanger & Pipework	6,622.00	1,324.40	7,946.40	57a.19
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	58.19
ROSPA Play Safety	Inspection reports	548.00	109.60	657.60	59.19
E.on	Annual agreement	1800.97	360.19	2161.16	60.19
The Fruitful Deli	Refreshments Mayor's Civic Service	250.00		250.00	63.19
Public Works Loan Board	Loan Payment	2,188.28		2,188.28	DD
Onecom	Telephone Charges	26.96	5.39	32.35	DD

### **Payments for approval**

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

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Chq / BACS No</b>
RDS	Updating of Mayor's Board	27.50		27.50	62.19
Princes	Engraving of Mayoral Chains	208.00	41.60	249.60	64.19
PG Skips	Cemetery Bin August	33.24	6.65	39.89	65.19
	Recreation Ground Bin Emptying August	52.04	10.41	62.45	
	Total	85.28	17.06	102.34	
WSLC	Swimming Pool Grant	14,500		14,500	66.19
PKF Accountants	Annual Governance & Accountability Return year ended 31 march 2019	800.00	160.00	960.00	67.19
West Mercia Energy	Electricity Supply 1.7.19 – 31.7.19	28.86	1.44	30.30	68.19
Mark Fitton	Cleaning of Bus Shelters Sept 2019	65.00		65.00	69.19
Ricoh	Charges and lease	213.99	42.80	256.79	70.19
Eon	Fuses Somerset Way	104.12	20.82	124.94	71.19
	Photocell Drawwell	73.17	14.63	87.80	
	Fuse replaced Butler Road	62.10	12.42	74.52	
	Total	239.39	47.87	287.26	
WTC	Mayor's Expenses	24.80		24.80	72.19
Shropshire Council	External Payroll recharge September 2019	7,717.32		7,717.32	73.19
Harlequin Home & Garden	Planters	3060.00		3060.00	74.19
The Computer Factory	PA Hire Remembrance Sunday 10 November	50.00	10.00	60.00	75.19

7 Business Solutions	Computer repair	37.50	7.50	45.00	76.19
Healthmatic	Toilet Cleaning Sept	829.17	165.83	995.00	77.19
West Mercia Energy	Electricity Supply 1.8.19 – 31.8.19	28.56	1.43	29.99	78.19
Onecom	Telephone Charges	25.56	5.11	30.67	DD

c) To note completion of the Town Council's Limited Assurance Review for year ended 31.3.19.

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

**72/19 Wem Care Network Meeting 5.9.19** - to receive notes from this meeting and to consider any recommendations within the notes.

The Clerk explained that following further advice concerning liabilities it would not be advisable to progress with the purchase of the wheelchairs. However the preferred option would be to encourage the groups to pre order wheelchairs for trips from The Red Cross who will deliver them.

**RESOLVED:-**

- **To receive notes from this meeting.**
- **Not to approve the recommendation relating to the submission of a grant to purchase wheelchairs due to concerns raised over the potential liability that would be placed on volunteers loaning out wheelchairs.**
- **To encourage the group to apply for a grant to cover the cost of delivery of wheelchairs from The Red Cross.**

**73/19 Amenities and Services Committee Meeting 10.9.19** – to receive minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations within the minutes. Cllr Glover gave a report of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:- to receive minutes from this meeting.**

**74/19 Climate Change**

a) To agree format and for public meeting to be held 16.10.19

**RESOLVED:- to approve the draft timetable and delegate authority to the members of the working party to agree the final format of the meeting at its next meeting.**

b) To note response received from Owen Paterson.

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

c) To consider the Town Council's Community Climate Change Commitment.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the document.**

d) To consider whether the Town Council should call for SALC to request that NALC Policy Committee lobby government to unlock resources to Town and Parish Councils to help them combat Climate Change locally.

**RESOLVED**:- to support this action. The Clerk was instructed to write to SALC to ask them to request that NALC Policy Committee be tasked with lobbying government to unlock resources to Town and Parish Councils to help them combat Climate Change in their own communities.

- 75/19 Wem Economic Forum Meeting 24.9.19** – to receive a verbal report from this meeting.  
Cllr Towers gave a verbal report from the meeting and explained that Cllr Butler from Shropshire Council attended the meeting which was very helpful as he was able to share experience of projects in the south of the county. It was also reported that discussions took place on the need for an event to replace the Sweet Pea Show as it was so important to the town.

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

- 76/19 Wem Highway Concerns** – to consider holding a meeting with Highways Officials to discuss concerns.  
A general discussion took place on the need for Shropshire Council to carry out outstanding works in the town as some issues had been on the progress report for 4 years. Cllr Mellings reported that he was trying to set up a meeting in early October with officers from Shropshire Council and all Councillors will be encouraged to attend.

**RESOLVED**:- to note.

- 77/19 VE and VJ 75 Anniversary Commemorations**  
a) Events Liaison Group Meeting 22.8.19 - to receive notes from this meeting.

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

- b) VE Day Commemorations Public Meeting 16.9.19 - to receive notes from this meeting and consider any recommendations within the notes.

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

- 78/19 Mayoral Policy** - to request an amendment to the policy to enable funds raised for The Mayor's Charities to be donated throughout the year and not at the end of the civic year.

**RESOLVED**:- to amend section 7 of the Mayor's Handbook to state that a record of all funds raised and donated must be kept by the Mayor which shall be presented at the end of the Mayor's year in office.

- 79/19 Consultations** – To consider the Town Council's response to the following consultations.  
a) Shropshire Council Consultation on proposed post-19 travel assistance policy.

**RESOLVED**:- to comment that

- It is the Town Council's opinion that all post 19 SEND Students should receive assistance with travel costs and not just those faced with exceptional circumstances
- The Town Council continues to be concerned about the cost of transport for post 16 students travelling to school and colleges in

**Shropshire and urges Shropshire Council to reconsider its stance on these unfair charges.**

b) Notification of forthcoming BT Payphone Removal Consultation

It was reported that the phone boxes in New Street and High Street had been identified by BT for removal. It was noted that both boxes were used regularly and that the High Street box had been out of order for a lengthy period on 2018 so the usage figures would have been higher.

**RESOLVED**:- to strongly object to the removal of both phone boxes as there is strong evidence that they were in regular use.

c) Shropshire Council Youth Support Consultation.

A discussion took place on the vital role that the youth club and other youth organisations in the town play. Councillors expressed the view that they need to discuss these proposals with youth group leaders so that they can fully understand the impact that the new proposals may have.

**RESOLVED**:- to defer a decision on this to the October meeting to enable the Town Council time to meet with and seek the views of local youth groups.

d) Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority – Consultation on Police and Crime Commissioner takeover of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. Cllr Mellings gave a report on the background to the survey.

**RESOLVED**:- to respond to the survey objecting again to the merger and to write to Owen Paterson MP urging him to object to the takeover as it would not be in the best interests of the residents of the town.

**80/19 Correspondence.**

a) North West Energy Network

**RESOLVED**:- to note.

b) SALC AGM and 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

**RESOLVED**:- that Cllr Mellings and Dee would attend.

c) Shropshire Council: Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy

**RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk and Cllr Drummond would meet with the consultant.

**81/19 Reports**

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.

Cllr Mellings presented a report from WSSA trustee meeting.

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.

A written report was circulated by Cllr Mellings and a verbal report was received from Cllr Dee.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the reports

**82/19 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.* - none

**83/19 Dates of future meetings** – to note the date of the October meeting.

**RESOLVED:-** to note that the next meeting will be held on 31.10.19.

**84/19 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

Morgan Library – to discuss

Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee did not vote on this item

**RESOLVED:-**

- That the Town Council formally notifies Shropshire Council of its interest in the transfer of the freehold ownership of the Morgan Library building in its entirety to the Town Council for a nominal fee, subject to the outcome of condition surveys of the building.
- That the Town Council rescinds the resolution made 31.8.17 and agrees to fund the cost of the surveys required to enable the Town Council to make an informed decision on the transfer of the asset.
- To appoint Balfours to undertake a condition survey of the building in its entirety as per the quote submitted.
- That the Town Council sets up an Asset Transfer Committee comprising of all Town Councillors with the remit to oversee the transfer of the Morgan Library to the Town Council and to delegate authority to this committee to authorise it to spend up to £10,000.00 from the service transformation budget to enable it to commission additional surveys advised following the results of the condition survey.
- To make no decision on any shared use of building until the Asset Transfer is confirmed.

Fothergill Way Public Open Space Adoption – to discuss

**RESOLVED:-** to approve the commuted sum proposed in the Clerks report.

Meeting ended 20.45

Mayor.....