

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

**Present:-** Councillor P Glover (Mayor), Councillors, R Dodd, R Drummond, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, J Murray, G Nash, E Towers.  
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

5 members of the public present

**25/19 To receive apologies for absence.**

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

Cllr Soul – Holiday

Cllr Broomhall

Cllr Dee

**26/19 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.

The following declarations of interest were made

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
Cllr Mellings	Twin-hatted member declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Mellings, Towers, Drummond, Meakin	Agenda item 30/19 biii 19/02667/FUL: Wem Tennis Club. Trustees of Wem Sports and Social Association	

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

**27/19 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A member of the public raised the following issues

- Morgan Library – this building is soon to become vacant and Shropshire Council should be instructed to fund the refurbishment of the building as it would make an ideal home for the Town Council.
- Toilets on the recreation ground – the reopening of these toilets will be expensive and could see an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area.
- The condition of Park House continues to be a concern for local residents.

A representative from Wem Civic Society stated that the parking charges continue to have a significant impact on the town as it is half empty on a Saturday which should be a busy day. The Civic Society are concerned that Shropshire Council will not review the situation properly and the Town needs to act for itself and undertake some research into numbers of people using the car park on a Saturday. This could be a joint project between the Town Council and Civic Society.

A member of the public raised concerns over the impact that the proposed floodlights on the tennis court could have on neighbouring properties and asked Councillors to be mindful of these concerns when the application was debated.

**28/19 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**RESOLVED**:- that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**29/19 Progress report** - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

A discussion took place on the lack of progress on Highways issues that have been raised repeatedly over the past 3 years and it was agreed that Wem Economic Forum Traffic Working Party should be encouraged to request a meeting with Steve Davenport and Steve Brown to discuss the lack of action.

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

**30/19 Planning Applications.**

**a) To note the recent planning decisions.**

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

**b) To consider the following planning applications.**

i) 19/02489/FUL Address: Rose Marie Court, Noble Street, Wem, Proposal: Installation of replacement windows to all dwellings (No.s 1-9)

**RESOLVED**:- not to object to the application

ii) 19/02435/FUL Address: 11 Lowe Hill Gardens, Wem, SY4 5TZ Proposal: Erection of part single part two storey extension

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

iii) 19/02667/FUL Address: Wem Tennis Club , Park Road, Wem, SY4 5DA Proposal: Erection of clubhouse following partial demolition of existing clubhouse to include provision of disabled access/facilities; Installation of two 10m high columns to accommodate 2 floodlights each.

Cllr Mellings, Towers, Drummond and Meakin left the room and took no part in discussions.

**RESOLVED**:- to submit the following comment

**The Town Council does not object to this application but the applicant must ensure that the floodlights are positioned in such a way as not to impact detrimentally on neighbouring properties.**

**31/19 Finance and Accounts for Payment**

**a) To consider monthly financial statement and monthly budget report.**

**RESOLVED**:- to note the report

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

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

**Payments made before meeting**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
TalkTalk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD
Shropshire Council	Joint Energy Costs 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter April-June 2019	1,708.70	341.74	2,050.44	DD

**Payments for approval**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Robert Acton	Litter Collection Equipment	810.00	162.00	972.00	26.19
JSL	Gloves – Litter picking	39.99	7.99	47.98	27.19
PG Skips	Rec Bin emptying	65.05	13.01	78.06	28.19
	Cemetery Bin emptying	41.55	8.31	49.86	
	Total	106.60	21.32	127.92	
WSSA	Groundsman Fire Safety Training	62.50		62.50	29.19
Graphic Pavement Signs	Allotment Noticeboard	348.95	69.79	418.74	30.19
SALC	Training – General Data Protection	54.00		54.00	31.19
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning June	65.00		65.00	32.19
Ricoh	Copier Charges	237.94	47.59	285.53	33.19
Viking	Stationery	33.26	6.65	39.91	34.19
Waterplus	Charges public toilets	174.39		174.39	35.19
Cllr Glover	Mayors Expenses June	69.50		69.50	36.19
WSSA	Reimbursement of VAT on Contribution	1200.00		1200.00	37.19
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning	829.17	165.83	995.00	38.19
Homedene Farm Nurseries	Plants for planters	416.67	83.33	500.00	300103
Onecom	Telephone May	26.86	5.37	32.23	DD
Shropshire Council	Payroll	7509.00		7509.00	DD

c) To nominate an additional signatory on the Unity Bank Account.

It was reported that following the resignation of Cllr Moyse he had been removed as a signatory from the Town Council's Unity Trust Account.

**RESOLVED:- to nominate Cllr Mellings as a signatory with the ability to authorise internet banking payments on the Unity Trust Bank Account.**

- 32/19 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 13.6.19** - to receive minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes.  
Recreation Ground Toilets – A lengthy discussion took place over the recommendation not to continue with plans to reopen the toilet block on the Recreation Ground on a seasonal basis due to cost and concerns over increased anti social behaviour. It was explained that the view of the Town Council on the ownership of the building is unchanged in that the building is owned by Shropshire Council but that the land is owned by Wem Town Council.
- RESOLVED:-** To receive the minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes except for the recommendation 6b re-opening of the recreation ground toilets and to
- To defer for six months a decision on the reopening of the recreation ground toilet block.
  - To request that Shropshire Council agree to fund the works required as identified from the surveyor’s inspection.
  - That the Clerk and Cllr Mellings set up a meeting to discuss proposals for the building with an individual who has expressed an interest in developing the building into a business unit which would include a public toilet facility.
- 33/19 Events Liaison Group meeting 13.6.19** - to receive minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes.
- RESOLVED:-** to receive minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes.
- 34/19 Climate Change Working Party 4.6.19** – to receive a report from this meeting. Cllr Nash updated on the work of this group and reported that two meetings were planned for July so Councillors could understand how to best develop an action plan and meet the criteria required to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors.
- RESOLVED:-** to note the report.
- 35/19 Bowensfield Car Park** – to consider a request from Wem Civic Society to promote the car park for the Heritage weekend 14/15.9.19 and to run a park and ride service from the car park during the Spring Market on 28.9.19.
- RESOLVED:-** to support the initiative and thank Wem Civic Society for the work they are doing to help regeneration of the town.
- 36/19 High Street Heritage Action Zones** – to consider submitting an expression of interest. Cllr Mellings reported that a draft application was due to be submitted for Wem by Shropshire Council and that the Town Council had been asked to be a partner in the application.
- RESOLVED:-** support the application in principal and agree to the Town Council becoming a partner in the project.

**37/19 Mayors 2018-19 Charity Fund** – to agree to ringfence donation from 2018-19 Mayors Charity Fund relating to Mental Health Support in the Town Council's Unity Trust Account.

Cllr Granger requested that the funds raised during her Mayoral Year for Mental Health support be held by the Town Council to be put towards the development of mental health drop in sessions in the town particularly for young people as per the resolution made at the Annual Town Meeting.

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

**38/19 Future of the Morgan Library** – to consider the future ownership of the Morgan Library following the closure of Mythstories Museum.

It was reported that Mythstories would be relocating to Shrewsbury and it was anticipated that the building would soon become vacant. It was explained that as part of the 2016 Asset Transfer discussions with Shropshire Council the Town Council expressed an interest in the transfer of the freehold of this building to the Town Council.

Councillors expressed concerns over the condition of the building, the fact that it was a listed building and the need to ensure that if the ownership of the building were to be transferred it should be brought up to a standard acceptable to the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:- to authorise The Clerk to contact Shropshire Council to formally request that Shropshire Council consider the transfer of the freehold of the entire building to the Town Council.**

**Any transfer of ownership of this building will be on the condition that it is transferred in a condition that is to the satisfaction of the Town Council and that the cost of this work is met by Shropshire Council.**

**39/19 Training**

**a) Quotes, Tenders and Contract Management** – to approve the organisation of a training course on this subject for Clerks and Councillors and nominate 4 Councillors to attend.

The Clerk reported that whilst this course was aimed at Clerks it would also be useful to councillors and that a maximum of 5 spaces including the Clerk would be allocated to representatives of Wem Town Council.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the organisation of the course and nominate the following councillors to attend Cllr Mellings, Cllr Drummond, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Dodd, (Cllr Towers reserve).**

**40/19 Councillor Vacancy**

**a) Councillor Vacancy** – for update.

It was reported that an election had not been called and the Town Council could now fill the vacancy by Co-option

**RESOLVED:- to advertise the vacancy for co-option and to co-opt a Councillor onto the Town Council at the July meeting of the Council.**

**b) Council Committees** - to appoint a member onto the following committees;  
Finance and Corporate Governance  
Amenities and Services  
Events Liaison Group

**RESOLVED**:- to appoint the following Councillors onto  
Finance and Corporate Governance Committee - Cllr Mellings  
Amenities and Services Committee – Cllr Towers  
Events Liaison Group - vacant

c) Parish Emergency Advisor

**RESOLVED**:- to appoint Cllr Granger as Parish Emergency Advisor for 2019-20.

**41/19 Police and Crime Commissioner Survey** – to consider response.

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the draft response to the survey circulated with the meeting papers.

**42/19 Correspondence**

a) Invitation to SALC AGM.

**RESOLVED**:- to note

b) Wem Tennis Club – Notice served under TCPO 2015 article13 ref application for planning permission.

**RESOLVED**:- to note.

**43/19 Reports**

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

Cllr Drummond gave a verbal report on the meeting of North Shropshire Area Local Committee.

Cllr Mellings circulated a written report on recent trustee meetings for Wem Sports and Social Association

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

A written report from Cllr Mellings was circulated.

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

c) Data Protection Training – to receive report.

The Clerk reported that she had attended this training and that there were some items raised that required action around CCTV.

**44/19 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*

Development of land off Mill Street – to discuss

**45/19 Dates of future meetings** – to note the date of the July meeting.

**RESOLVED**:- to note that the July meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**46/19 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.

a) To consider nominations for Honorary Townsman.

**RESOLVED**:- Not to make an Honorary Townsman award this year.

Meeting ended 21.00

Mayor.....

DRAFT