

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

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

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

At the start of the meeting Rev Nick Heron said prayers

2 members of the public present

**182/19 To receive apologies for absence.**

**Resolved**:- to accept the following apology for absence  
**P Johnson**

**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 Dee, Cllr Mellings	Twin-hatted members 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 Drummond	185/19 Bias interest 19/00965/VAR Thomas Adams School as governor at Thomas Adams School	
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Towers, Cllr Moyses	189/19 WSLC directors	Dispensations to speak but not vote
Cllr Granger	19/01256/FUL bias interest as friend of the applicant	

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

**183/19 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A representative of Wem Civic Society thanked everyone involved in the service to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Great Escape'.

Concerns were also raised over Shropshire Council's proposals to reduce the bus services on routes in and through the town.

**184/19 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and they were duly signed by The Mayor.**

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

The Clerk updated on various items that had taken place over the past month.

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

**185/19 Planning Applications.**

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

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

**b) Planning Applications for consideration**

**19/00971/TCA** The Old Hall, New Street, Wem, SY4 5AB

Proposal: Fell 3no Lawson Cypress & 1no Silver Birch within Wem Conservation Area.

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

**19/00965/VAR** Thomas Adams School, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, SY4 5UB

Proposal: Variation of condition no 1 attached to planning permission CC2008/0039 dated 19/02/2009 to allow for the retention of the 3no demountable classroom units for a further temporary period of ten years.

Cllr Drummond took no part in discussions or voting on this application.

**RESOLVED:- to support this application with the following comments**

**The Town Council is concerned over the length of time that these buildings have been classed as temporary and priority should be given to convert these temporary buildings into permanent buildings.**

**19/00949/FUL** 5 Sycamore Drive, Wem, SY4 5AQ

Proposal: Erection of extensions to form workshop, store and utility together with a new pitched roof above the existing garage following removal of an existing porch.

**RESOLVED:- to support the application**

**19/01256/FUL** Proposed Dwelling To The North Of, Crabtree Lane, Wem

Proposal: Erection of a detached bungalow with detached double garage

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

**RESOLVED:- to support the application subject to the concerns raised by Highways being addressed.**

**186/19 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 prior to the meeting**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Shropshire Council	Payroll	6592.06	10.18	6602.24	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

**Payments for approval**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Waterplus	Water Supply Public Toilets	159.81		159.81	160.18
PG Skips	Rec Bin emptying	51.24	10.25	61.49	161.18
	Cemetery Bin emptying	32.44	6.49	38.93	
	Total	83.68	16.74	100.42	
Arrow County Supplies	Bin Bags	96.84	19.37	116.21	162.18
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning March	65.00		65.00	163.18
Welch and Phillips	Man Hole cover rebuild	465.22	93.04	558.26	164.18
Welch and Phillips	Skate ramp repair	960.00	192.00	1152.00	165.18
Shropshire Council	Streetlighting 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	1525.62	305.12	1830.74	166.18
West Mercia Energy	Toilet Electricity Feb 2019	103.40	5.17	108.57	167.18
Ray Parry Playgrounds	Wetpour repair	5400.00	1080.00	6480.00	168.18
Healthmatic	Toilet cleaning	787.50	157.50	945.00	169.18
Lindon Heating	Heater Groundsman's shed	3520.00	704.00	4224.00	170.18
Viking	Office supplies	163.72	21.14	184.86	171.18
Onecom	Telephone	25.07	5.01	30.08	DD

c) Changes to payment of staff salaries – for discussion.

It was explained that due to changes in their payroll system Shropshire Council was no longer able to pay staff salaries and recharge the Town Council. The options put forward in the Clerk's report on this matter were considered and it was

**RESOLVED:-**

- To authorise the Town Clerk to apply to set up a BACS payment system to enable staff salaries to be paid monthly via BACS.

- **To approve payment of set up and monthly costs associated with BACS payment.**

d) Internal Audit report – for consideration.

It was reported that the outstanding initialling of the June minutes as identified in the report had been corrected.

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

**187/19 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 12.3.19** - to receive minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes.

**RESOLVED:-**

- **To receive these minutes and approve the recommendations therein except for minute point 11 concerning the delegated powers and composition of the committee.**
- **To review delegated powers and composition of all committees at the May Town Council meeting.**

**188/19 Environmental Maintenance Grant** – to consider response from appeal sent to Shropshire Council.  
Councillors expressed disappointment at the response received from Shropshire Council and it was

**RESOLVED:- to contact Shropshire Council and request that the 1986 maintenance agreement between the Town Council and Shropshire Council to undertake the maintenance of The Grove, Lowe Hill Road and Cordwell Park play areas is reviewed.**

**189/19 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group meeting 20.3.19** - to receive minutes and approve recommendations within the minutes.

**RESOLVED:- to receive these minutes and approve the recommendations therein.**

**190/19 Recreation Ground Toilet Block** – to discuss recent inspection of toilets and consider options for the building.

Cllr Mellings reported on a recent meeting with officers from Shropshire Council to look at the inside of the toilet block on Wem Recreation Ground. The Clerk circulated some photographs along with provisional figures estimating the cost of reopening the toilets during the summer months. It was explained that there was nothing allocated in the 2019-20 budget for this work. A discussion took place on this item and it was

**RESOLVED:- to defer a decision on whether to progress this matter further until Shropshire Council are able to confirm that they will be willing to cover the cost of a full structural survey of the building including drains.**

**191/19 Drawwell Walk Inspection Meeting** – for discussion.

Cllr Mellings explained that he had met with The Clerk and Richard Knight from Rights of Way to inspect the path and the following areas were discussed as in need of work

- **Cutting back canopy vegetation** – it was explained that the trees blocked the streetlight and if the canopy could be cut back this would improve the light and

dry up the path. However, as the canopy did not obstruct the footpath there was no enforcement that could be carried out to cut back the canopy.

- Surface condition
- Ownership of the access road to the Business Park

It was explained that due to budget reductions the Rights of Way team did not have funds available to cover the cost of the much needed repairs to the surface of the path. A discussion took place on the value of the path to the whole community and the need to ensure it was in good condition. Concerns were raised over the type of work proposed and whether it would be sufficient.

**RESOLVED:-**

- **To approve a 50% contribution (up to a maximum of £3000) to be earmarked from the 2018-19 accounts towards the cost of surface repairs to the footpath on the condition that the Town Clerk is satisfied that the specification for proposed surfacing works is sufficient to address the concerns over the condition of the surface.**
- **To seek a quote for the reduction of the tree canopy overhanging the path for work to be carried out in the Autumn.**

**192/19 Staff Hours** – to consider request for Assistant Clerk to be authorised to work additional hours in order to undertake an inventory of Office filing system.

**RESOLVED:- to approve that the Assistant Clerk be authorised to work an extra 10 hours at her normal hourly rate to undertake an inventory of the filing system.**

**193/19 Correspondence** – to consider the following items of correspondence (copies enclosed).

a) Consultation on proposed changes from September 2019 - Travel assistance for SEND Nursery and Post 16 students. A discussion took place on this item and several Councillors expressed their dismay over the proposals which were seen by some as a tax on education

**RESOLVED:-**

- **To object strongly to these proposals as it is the opinion of the Town Council that these changes will impact on some of the most vulnerable members of the community. It is the opinion of the Town Council that Shropshire Council should be encouraging as many young people to access post 16 education in order to grow the economy of the county and these proposals will have a detrimental effect on this aspiration.**
- **To request that SALC is asked to co-ordinate a county wide response to this consultation.**
- **To make local schools and colleges aware of the Town Council's objection and encourage them to also submit comments.**
- **To copy correspondence to Owen Paterson MP.**

b) Wem Station Ticket Machine – A discussion took place on the removal of the ticket machine on Health and Safety grounds. Councillors shared examples of how this decision has affected residents being able to take advantage of cheap ticket offers that have to be printed in advance.

**RESOLVED:- to respond that the Town Council is very unhappy with the removal of the ticket machine with no notice which is disproportionate to the problem and**

to contact Transport for Wales to request that the machine is reinstalled as soon as possible.

**194/19 Reports**

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.  
A report from Wem Christmas Lights committee was circulated and it was

**RESOLVED:- to receive the report**

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee  
A written report was circulated by Cllr Mellings and a verbal report from Cllr Dee which updated on the condition of Park House.

**RESOLVED:- to receive the reports**

**195/19 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

**196/19 Dates of future meetings** – to note the date of the April meeting

**RESOLVED:- to note that the next meeting date will be held on 25.4.19**

Meeting ended 20.30

.....  
Mayor