

Present:-Councillor P Johnson (Chairman), Councillors, P Broomhall, M Meakin, G Nash, E Towers, and Mrs P. O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

- 1 **Apologies** - To receive any apologies for absence.

Resolved:- to accept the following apologies for absence
Cllr's C Shingler, P Glover.

- 2 **Declaration of pecuniary interests** – to receive declarations of interest.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers	Member declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 Allotments as he is married to an allotment tenant.	None
Cllr Johnson, Cllr Meakin, Cllr Towers	Bias interest as members of Wem Sports and Social Association Executive Committee 9a	None

- 3 **Minutes** To approve as a correct record the minutes of a Meeting of this Committee held on 20th September 2017.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of 20th September 2017 and they were duly signed as a true record.

- 4 **Progress Report on items raised at previous meeting** – for consideration.

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 5 **Toilets**

a) To receive an update on charging income – the charging income to date was presented and it was

Resolved:- to note the report.

- 6 **Play Areas/Open Spaces**

a) Whitchurch Road POS – It was reported that Taylor Wimpey would now be employing a management company to maintain this open space therefore there was no need for any further discussion on this matter.

b) Tree removal - to consider requests for tree removal adjacent to the Wheatfields Pond and tree overhanging property boundary. A discussion took place in relation to the tree adjacent to the property on Guttery Close and it was

Resolved:- to request more information as to exactly what work is being proposed and once received to delegate powers to the Committee Chairman and Clerk to approve the removal of any branches subject to the works being fully paid for by the property owner.

The request to reduce the height of trees around the edge of the pond on the Wheatfields Amenity Area was also discussed. As there were no problems with the trees from a safety point of view raised in previous tree inspections it was;

Resolved:- to request that during the 2018 tree inspection the inspector be asked to look at these trees and consider whether any reduction in height from a safety point of view would be recommended and then to consider the matter again following the inspectors report.

c) To consider request from a resident for memorial bench on the Recreation Ground.

It was reported that there was currently no space for an additional bench on the recreation ground as all spaces for benches were occupied, however there may be space on the Millennium Green

Resolved:- to contact the resident and suggest that they contact members of the Millennium Green Committee to see whether there was space for a bench on the Millennium Green.

7 Allotments

Cllr Towers took no part in discussions

a) Paths – for update on condition of slabbed paths between plots. The quote of £15 per slab received for the resetting of the paving slabs that had lifted on the allotment paths was considered and it was

Resolved:- to recommend an increase in the 2018-19 Allotment maintenance budget to £400.

b) Plots – for update on untidy plots and to receive a report from recent plot inspection.

Cllr Johnson and Broomhall reported that they had both inspected the plots and were pleased to see that some of the plots in the worst condition had been relet. A discussion took place on the condition of 2 plots and it was

Resolved:- that the Clerk be instructed to write to the tenants of plot 21A requesting that the plot is cleared of weeds and the site prepared for cultivation by 31.1.18 or they would have their tenancy agreement terminated.

Further Resolved:- that the Clerk write to the tenant of plot 22A to state that whilst the Town Council acknowledged that some work has been carried out to improve the plot, the plot must continue to be kept in a cultivated condition and free of weeds over the next year or the tenant will be given a 4 week notice that the plot will be reduced in size.

8 Love Lane Cemetery

a) Brick Wall – to consider quote for undertaking work to finish wall. The quote was considered for the works. Following a discussion it was agreed that the work to cut a recess was too high and the Clerk was asked to contact the contractor again to seek a quote for finishing the wall only.

Resolved:- to recommend that subject to a quote being received prior to the budget meeting that provision be considered in the 2018-19 budget for the works.

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2018-19 Budget

Cllr Towers, Meakin, Johnson took no part in discussions

a) Wem Sports and Social Association

To consider the financial request received from the Executive Committee for 2018-19.

The Clerk in her role as Secretary for the WSSA explained the background for the requested increase of £2000 to £20,000 in the annual request due to the anticipated additional expenditure on legal fees.

The following resolution was non quorate due to the fact that 3 members of the committee had declared an interest in this matter.

Resolved:- to recommend that the £20,000 contribution requested by the WSSA for the 2018-19 be included in the Town Council’s 2018-19 budget

b) Maintenance Projects – to discuss any maintenance projects for inclusion in 2018-19 budget – none suggested.

It was reported that the Town Council had been awarded £500 from Veolia towards the purchase of 2 3 tiered planters for the Jubilee Square area of the Town and that this purchase would be funded by the grant and from the floral display budget underspend for 2017-18

c) Fees and Charges – to review allotment fees and cemetery charges.

Resolved:- to recommend that the following fees and charges are set for 2019-20

Allotment Rents

ALLOTMENT No.	Rent 2019-20
4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 17, 24	£38
26, 27, 28	£26
17B	£28.50
1A, 30, 31, 32	£23
1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 7B, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B, 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 20A, 20B, 21B, 22A, 22B, 23A, 23B, 40, 41	£19
7A, 7AA, 8A, 8AA, 8B, 8BB, 17A, 19B, 19BB 21A, 21AA	£10

Cemetery Fees

Plot Purchase and Interment Fees	2018-19
A child under the age of 1 month at death	£20
A child under the age of 12 at death	£60
Purchase of plot for persons exceeding 12 years at death	£600

Interment Fee (for each interment over 12 years of age)	£275
Interment of ashes in existing grave	£150
Memorial Fee for the erection of a Headstone	
To a height not exceeding 3 feet	£300
In excess of 3 feet but not exceeding 3ft 6inches high	£800
Additional Inscription	£30
Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial	
Renewal of Exclusive Right of Burial prior to expiration	
For a period not exceeding 25 years from the date of expiration of existing rights	Half plot purchase fee at time of renewal

10 WSSA Constitution – for update.

It was reported that currently the solicitor was working with the Management Committee to put together a letter for the Charity Commission to consider.

Resolved:- to note the report.

11 CCTV – to consider request to re-locate CCTV monitor and for update on grant application.

Resolved:- to recommend that if the Police Station was to be relocated to another part of the Town the CCTV monitor continues to be located in Edinburgh House due to concerns over data protection.

The Clerk reported that she had resubmitted the grant to the PCC for 2 new CCTV cameras for the town and the provision of an increased storage capacity of the images so that they can be stored for longer. However due to changes to the application process if successful the Town Council would have to contribute 50% to this project.

Resolved:- to recommend that if successful the Town Council contribute 50% of the grant application towards the purchase of the new cameras from the 2017-18 budget.

12 Bus Shelters – to note price increase in cleaning of shelters from 1.1.18.

Resolved:- to approve the price increase.

13 Date and time of next meeting – to note.

Resolved:- to note that the next meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 13th March 2018.

14 Exclusion of Press and Public

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) Insurance Claim – for update.

The Clerk gave a short verbal report on the insurance claim that had been submitted to the Town Council's insurers.

Resolved:- to note the report.

Meeting ended 15.30

Chairman