

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 22nd February 2018
at 7 p.m.in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem**

Present:- Councillor E Towers (Mayor), Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, P Dodd, P Glover, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray, G Nash, Cllr White.

Mrs S Thornhill (Assistant Town Clerk)

3 members of the public present.

The Mayor announced with regret the passing of Bryan Whittaker, a former Mayor of Wem on two occasions (1980-1981 and 1988-1989) and asked that Council members stand for a minutes' silence. Several Councillors then paid tribute to Mr Whittaker.

The Mayor's Chaplain was asked to say a prayer to remember Mr Whittaker & Mr Roger Thorne, Musical Director of Wem Jubilee Band who had also passed away recently.

The Mayor introduced Cllr Peter Nutting Leader of Shropshire Council.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Peter Nutting to the meeting who said that it was his aim to visit all Market Towns in Shropshire and was now realising what a diverse County Shropshire was and that during his term of office he would be focussing on two main areas, the culture of Shropshire and the economic growth & development of Shropshire. He said that there were two controversial matters that the Council were dealing with at the moment, the purchase of the shopping centres in Shrewsbury and to bring the unit trusts purchased in Jersey back to mainland Britain. He also mentioned the need to regenerate the riverside shopping centre as there was a desperate need for more hotel space and medical practices and the proposed redevelopment would provide the opportunity to do something completely different with the space, ideas currently being suggested include the development of a similar arrangement to the Market square with the creation of a performance space and café culture. He mentioned other schemes in Oswestry & Ellesmere and said that if Wem was able to come up with some good ideas that would give a return of between 7-10% he would be interested in investing in Wem. He said that Shropshire Council own the freehold of 4,500 council houses currently managed by Star Housing which if sold could raise £135 million which could be used to provide housing not just for the elderly but for the young. Cllr Nutting then took questions from the Councillors which included Council Tax increases, the re-banding of parking charges and infrastructure. He ended by suggesting that an informal evening be arranged with Council members and to contact his PA to arrange a suitable date.

181/18 To receive apologies for absence.

Resolved:- to accept the following apologies for absence
Cllr Shingler

182/18 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 interests were declared

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Mellings Cllr Dee	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 Towers Cllr Mellings	Item 198a/18 & 198b/18 Board members Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Moyse	Item 198a/18 & 198b/18 Board member Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	
Cllr Murray	Item 193b/18 as his son has submitted a quote for the maintenance of the Floral Planters	

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllrs Meakin and Johnson requested a dispensation to discuss and vote on matters relating to Wem Sports and Social Association.

Resolved:- to award a dispensation to Councillors Mrs M Meakin and P Johnson for the term of the Council, to discuss and vote on matters relating to Wem Sports and Social Association.

183/18 Public Participation Time - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mr Edwards paid tribute to Bryan Whittaker and said that he was a genuine gentleman. He mentioned a problem with the Back Brook by the substation and that he had pointed out to the Victorian History Society that their event was the same weekend as the Sweet Pea Society show. He also agreed with Cllr Nutting that a further meeting should be arranged with Wem Town Councillors.

184/18 Council Minutes.

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25th January 2018.

Resolved:- that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 25th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and were duly signed by the Mayor.

185/18 Progress report - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

The Assistant Clerk reported that consultation letters regarding Highways issues on Barnard Street should be sent out in the next week or so by Shropshire Council Highways department.

It was reported that the Local Plan Review Site Allocation was now due out in October 2018.

It was mentioned that complaints had been received regarding the brightness of the new LED lights and it was suggested having a review mechanism to gain any feedback on the new lighting system.

Resolved:- to note the report and to hold an Autumn review on the luminosity of the LED lighting system.

186/18 Planning Applications.

a) To note the recent planning decisions.

Resolved:- to note

187/18 Finance and Accounts for Payment

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

The Assistant Clerk presented the monthly financial statement and monthly budget report.

Resolved:- to note

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	6287.19	12.72	6299.91	DD
Petty cash	Petty Cash	50.00		50.00	300062

Payments for approval

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
David Murray	Winter planter maintenance	80.00		80.00	134.17
Shropshire Council	Street lighting 3 rd quarter	2991.82	598.36	3590.18	135.17
PG Skips	Recreation bin emptying	64.05	12.81	76.86	136.17
	Cemetery bin emptying	40.55	8.11	48.66	
	Total to pay			125.52	
Healthmatic	Cleaning and Maintenance Public Toilets January	787.50	157.50	945	137.17
Mark Fitton	Cleaning of Bus Shelters Feb	65.00		65.00	138.17
WME	Toilet electricity	116.93	5.85	122.78	139.17
Cllr Towers	Hospitality Allowance Reimbursement	500.00		500.00	100187
SALC	Training Course	25.00		25.00	
Shropshire Council	Emergency Call Out to remove fallen tree Kynaston Drive 16/10/2017	1315.60		1315.60	

Waterplus	Water Charges Public Toilets	145.85		145.85	
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD
PWLB	Loan repayment	2296.95		2296.95	DD

c) Payment of contractor for LED Conversion - to authorise the payment of the invoice prior to the March meeting.

It was reported that the invoice for the works had been received and there were no concerns however the Clerk wished to meet with the contractor to discuss the project prior to payment of the invoice.

Resolved:- to approve the payment of the invoice for the LED conversion works prior to the March meeting.

188/18 Road Safety Concerns – to consider submitting Road Safety Concerns as per Shropshire Council's Road Safety Policy.

The following concerns were raised:-

- To install a highway mirror on the blind corner of Aston Road
- The need for a pedestrian crossing along Pyms Road between the junction with Whitchurch Road/New Street and the rear entrance to Thomas Adams School
- To install more signage, school and speed signs in Pyms Road.

Resolved:- to submit the above three concerns to Shropshire Council as per their Road Safety Policy.

189/18 GDPR working party report– for update.

Cllr Mrs Dodd presented this report said that it was not possible to progress this matter further until a decision had been made by NALC as to whether the Town Clerk can be a Data Officer.

She also brought to the attention of the Councillors the two recommendations in the report and it was

Resolved:- to receive the report and to support the recommendations therein.

190/18 Robert Hill and Noble Street Trust - to appoint Trustee.

Resolved:- to re-appoint Cllrs Dodd and Meakin to the Robert Hill and Noble Street Trust

191/18 Past Mayor Badges – to consider quote and samples received.

The Mayor circulated the samples that had been received and the Assistant Clerk advised members that the name part of the badge could be engraved but could not be enamelled. Cllr Towers read out a letter from Mrs Peggy Carson a former Mayor of Wem who said that she did not support the scheme and that if it were to go ahead she did not want a badge. There was some discussion and several Councillors said they felt they were not needed and that the money could be better spent elsewhere. In response to a query regarding when the badge would be worn, the Mayor responded it would be worn on Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day, the Mayor's Civic Service and any other Civic event. Cllr Murray said he thought that a badge would promote the

town and suggested all Former Mayors be written to asking for their views and if they would want a badge.

Resolved:-to write to all former Mayors to seek their views as to whether they would support the creation of a Past Mayor's badge.

192/18 Mayoral Awards – to consider formation of a Mayor's Awards working party to oversee the awards.

Cllr Towers presented his ideas for a Mayor's Awards Evening to go ahead on Wednesday 9th May 2018 and said it would include businesses as well and that there would be 12 awards in all. Cllr Broomhall said it promoted the town and Cllr Moyse said he liked the idea of recognising people in the community. Cllr Towers asked that a working party of 5 Councillors be formed.

Resolved:- to approve the formation of a working party consisting of Cllrs Towers, Broomhall, Dee, Moyse and Nash.

193/18 Quotes for work – to consider quotes received for the following works contracts.
a) Annual Tree inspection
b) Floral planter maintenance

Cllr Murray left the room.

Resolved:- to award the contract for the Town Council's Annual Tree Inspection to Terry Merchant and to award the contract for the maintenance of the Town Council's Floral Planters to Harlequin Home and Garden Services.

194/18 Correspondence – to consider the following items of correspondence (copies enclosed)
a) Wem Civic Society letter.
b) Victorian County History Society Request for funds.
c) Royal British Legion Silent Soldier Initiative.
d) Wem Town Hall Contribution Letter.

Resolved:- as follows

- a) **Wem Civic Society Letter** – to defer this matter to the March meeting.
- b) **Victorian County History Society** – to request they submit a Grant Application form to be considered at the budget meeting in January.
- c) **RBS Silent Soldier Initiative** – to support this initiative and to purchase a Silent Soldier Silhouette at the cost of £250.
- d) **Wem Town Hall** – to defer this matter to the March meeting.

195/18 Reports

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
None received

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.
Cllr Mrs Dee reported that the building works on Mill Street close to Roden House had ceased and the planners were not aware, however building works can stop at any time and do not need permission.

A written report from Cllr Mellings had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Resolved:- to note the reports

196/18 Future agenda items – for consideration.
Centenary Celebrations

197/18 Dates of future meetings – to note the date of the March meeting and agree a date of Annual Town Meeting.

Cllr Mrs Dodd reported that Thursday 29th March was Maundy Thursday and Councillors may have other commitments that evening.

Cllr Towers reported that the Annual Town meeting was an open meeting to discuss Town issues and asked Councillors to think of topics.

Resolved:- to request that the Clerk discusses with SALC the legality of holding the March meeting on Maundy Thursday and report back to the Council.

Further Resolved:- to hold the Annual Town meeting on Thursday 17th May 2018.

198/18 Exclusion of Public and Press

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.

a) To approve and sign deed of variation of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre lease.

b) To approve and sign licence for alterations to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

Resolved:- to approve the deed of variation of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Lease. Malcolm Adkins and the Mayor to sign.

Further Resolved:- to approve the licence for alterations to Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre. Mayor to sign.

Meeting ended at 21.10

Town Mayor.....