

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Wem Town Council held at 7 p.m on Thursday 24th January 2019 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 Moyse, J Murray, E Towers.

Mrs Penny O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

136/19 To Receive Apologies for absence.

Resolved:- to accept the following apologies for absence

Cllrs G Soul, P Johnson
Absent Cllr Nash

137/19 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and Interests of bias or pre-determination.

a) To receive any disclosure 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	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre a disclosable pecuniary interest as a director of WSLC.</p> <p>Millennium Green - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee</p> <p>Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee member of the Management Committee</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p> <p>Item 142/19 Wem Jubilee Band – Bias interest in the application for funding as Vice President. Wem Cricket Club – Bias interest as treasurer of Cricket Club</p> <p>Shropshire Council – twin hatted member</p> <p>Cllr Mellings also declared that he acted as the Independent Auditor for The Carnival Committee and Christmas Lights Committee.</p>	<p>Councillor allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSLC</p> <p>Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept</p>
Cllr Towers	<p>Item 139/19 Allotments – Bias interest in allotment fees as wife is an allotment holder.</p> <p>Item 140/19a Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre - disclosable pecuniary interest as a board member</p>	<p>Councillor allowed to participate but not vote in discussions regarding WSLC</p>

	<p>Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee and member of the Executive Committee</p> <p>The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p> <p>Items 142/19 Wem Baptist Church - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of that Church.</p> <p>Item 140/19c Wem Economic Forum Bias interest as member of forum</p>	<p>To discuss but not vote on all matters relating to WSSA</p> <p>Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept</p>
Cllr Murray	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p>	<p>Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept</p>
Cllr Meakin	<p>Item 141/19a Wem Christmas Festival Committee -Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee</p> <p>Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee and member of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Item 140/19b Wem Town Hall Community Trust - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee.</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p> <p>Item 142/19 Wem Carnival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p>	<p>To discuss and vote on all matters relating to WSSA</p> <p>Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept</p>
Cllr Dodd	<p>Item 139/19 Allotments – Bias interest in allotment fees as her husband is an allotment holder.</p> <p>Item 140/19a</p>	

	<p>The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee</p> <p>Item 140/19b Wem Town Hall Community Trust - Bias interest in the application for funding as a Trustee</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p>	Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept
Cllr Broomhall	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as member of the Committee.</p> <p>Item 140/19c Wem Economic Forum Bias interest as member of forum</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p>	Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept
Cllr Moyse	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee.</p> <p>Millennium Green - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee.</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p> <p>Item 142/19 Welcome to Wem - Bias interest in the application for funding as chairman of the Committee.</p>	Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept
Cllr Glover	<p>Item 140/19c Wem Economic Forum Bias interest as member of forum</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p>	Councillor allowed to discuss and vote on the annual precept
Cllr Dee	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Youth club – Bias interest as co-chair of Wem Youth Club</p> <p>Wem Jubilee Band – Bias interest in the application for funding as Vice President</p> <p>Shropshire Council twin hatted member</p>	
Cllr Granger	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Christmas Festival Committee - Bias interest in the application for funding as a member of the Committee.</p>	

	<p>Item 140/19c Wem Economic Forum Bias interest as member of forum</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p>	
Cllr Drummond	<p>Item 140/19a Wem Sports and Social Assoc. - Bias interest in the application for funding as trustee and member of the Management Committee.</p> <p>Item 140/19c Wem Economic Forum Bias interest as member of forum</p> <p>Item 141/19 Precept – pecuniary interest as council tax payer in the town</p> <p>Item 142/19a Wem Army Cadets – Bias interest as treasurer of the cadets</p>	

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

The following Councillors applied for a dispensation under item 141/19 Town Council precept - C Granger, R Drummond, P Dee, G Soul.

Additional dispensation application requests had been received from Cllr Dodd to enable her to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Town Hall.

Cllr Meakin to enable her to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Christmas Festival.

Cllr Broomhall to enable him to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Christmas Festival.

Cllr Towers to enable him to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Whitchurch Road Cemetery

Cllr Moyse to enable him to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre, Wem Millennium Green, Welcome to Wem Project

Resolved:- to award the following dispensations

Cllrs C Granger, R Drummond, P Dee, G Soul to discuss and vote on the annual precept.

Cllr R Dodd to discuss and but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Town Hall.

Cllr M Meakin to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Christmas Festival.

Cllr P Broomhall to enable him to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Christmas Festival.

Cllr E Towers to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Whitchurch Road Cemetery.

Cllr P Moyse to discuss but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre, Wem Millennium Green, Welcome to Wem Project.

138/19 2018-19 Estimated Year End Income / Expenditure – to consider estimated budget report and accompanying notes.
A discussion took place on the year end estimated expenditure/ income and it was;

Resolved:- to note the report and to task the April meeting of Finance and Corporate Governance Committee to make recommendations for the earmarking of the 2018-19 underspend.

139/19 Fees and Charges for 2019-20 - to review the following charges as per recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee.
The Council considered the recommendations of the Amenities and Services Committee in relation to fees and charges for Love Lane Allotment and Cemetery.
a) Love Lane Cemetery – Interment and Memorial fees.

Resolved:-
That Love Lane Cemetery fees are not increased and remain the same as for 2018-19.

b) Love Lane Allotments – Annual rents.
Cllr Dodd and Cllr Towers left the room and took no part in discussions.

Resolved:-

- **Not to increase any allotment rents for year 2019-20**
- **That the Town Council charge a £5 admin fee to all tenants regardless of plot size.**
- **That from 1.4.19 all new entrants onto the allotment waiting list are charged a non-returnable £5 deposit.**

140/19 2019-20 Budget

a) To consider contribution requests received from larger organisations running services or facilities within the Town.
Prior to the start of the Town Council’s discussion on the budget for 2019-20 it was suggested that the Town Council may wish to discuss in broader terms the expenditure budget it was hoping to achieve at the end of the process. A discussion took place and it was

Resolved:- that the Town Council would aspire to set a maximum precept of £316,462 which will equate to a 3% increase on a band D property.

Contribution request from larger organisations running services and facilities within the Town were considered and it was:-

Resolved:- to approve the following contributions for 2019-20

RECEIVED FROM	Award
Cllr, Murray and Granger left the room. Cllr Glover took the chair for this item Wem Christmas Lights & Festival Committee	£3,000
Cllr, Meakin and Dodd left the room Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery	£2,000
Cllrs Mellings and Moyse left the room	

Wem Millennium Green	£1,700
Cllrs Mellings and Drummond left the room Wem Sports and Social Association	£18,000
Cllrs Mellings, and Moyse left the room Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre	£58,000
Cllr Dee left the room Wem Youth Centre	£2,000

b) Wem Town Hall Trust – to consider Trustee’s response to Service Level Agreement.

Cllr Meakin left the room and Cllr Dodd took no part in voting.

Resolved:-

To approve the amendments to the Service Level Agreement and to agree a three-year contribution to Wem Town Hall Trust of £22,000 each year for a maximum of 3 years until 2022.

c) To consider the Town Council budget for 2019-2020

Each budget heading was discussed and the following decisions made:-

Lighting

Councillors were made aware of reduced energy charges but that there was still a need to continue with a replacement programme for the concrete columns.

Resolved:-to approve the Amenities and Services Committee recommendation that the Public Lighting Budget be set at £28,522.

Cemetery

It was reported that this budget included provision to replace the cemetery fence.

Resolved:-to approve the Amenities and Services Committee recommendation that the Burial Ground Budget be set at £7,580 including the contribution to Whitchurch Road Cemetery.

Allotments

The Clerk outlined the need to increase the budget slightly to cover increases in water charges.

Resolved:- to approve the Amenities and Services Committee recommendation that the Allotments Budget be set at £910.

Administration

The Clerk outlined that the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee was to decrease the administration budget as there was no longer a need to make provision to employ the services of a Data Protection Officer.

Resolved:-to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee that the Administration Budget is set at £24,480.

Contributions

Other than the contributions agreed under item 140/19a a discussion took place on the need to allocate funds for Wem Economic Forum and for the awarding of small grants.

Resolved:- to approve the contributions budget of £13,300 with £5000 being allocated for grant awards and £1000 allocated for Wem Economic Forum.

Recreation

It was explained that the play equipment budget required increasing in order to put funds aside for new items of play equipment. In addition to this there was also a need to repair the wetpour safety surface under some of the play equipment.

Resolved:-to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the recreation budget is set at £29,550.

Swimming Pool

In addition to the contribution agreed for Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre under item 140/19a it was reported that the budget for insurance and repairs be maintained at 2018/19 levels.

Resolved:-to approve the swimming pool budget of £67,300.

Staffing.

Resolved:- To approve the recommendation from the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee that the Staffing budget is set at £100,356.

Cllr Expenses

Resolved:-. To approve that the Cllr Expenses budget is set at £1,075.

Toilets.

It was reported that additional provision had been made in the budget as the cleaning contract was currently out for quotes.

Resolved:-. To approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the Public Toilets budget is set at £14,500

Bus Shelters

Resolved:-To approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the bus shelter budget is set at £1,020

Miscellaneous

Floral Planters

It was reported that there is a proposed increase in this budget due to the Town Council's agreement to take on the watering of the floral tubs on the High Street

Resolved:- To approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee to set the budget for floral planters at £3,750.

CCTV

It was reported that an allocation in the budget would be put towards the upgrading of 1 of the Town Centre cameras.

Resolved:- To approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee that the CCTV budget is set at £5,000.

Town Transformation

The Clerk outlined that the funds allocated under this budget heading were for the Town Council to carry out specialist works associated with the development of new services / facilities in the town.

Resolved:-to allocate a budget of £10,000 to this budget heading.

Wem Economic Forum Traffic Working Party

The request that the Town Council make provision in the budget of £2600 to fund a pilot study into the reversal of the one way priorities on Drawwell Lane /Chapel Street and Leek Street for a period of up to 1 year was considered. The Clerk explained that if the scheme was to become permanent it may cost an additional £8000. A discussion took place and some Councillors expressed the opinion that schemes of this nature should be funded by the Highways Authority not the Town Council.

Resolved:-

- **To allocate £2600 in the budget towards this project £1386 of this amount to be earmarked from any 2018-19 underspend.**
- **That the final decision on funding this project will be made in April 2019.**

Income

The Clerk outlined the income budget and it was

Resolved:- to set an income budget (excluding precept) of £14,095.

2019-20 Budget

Following the approval of all the budget headings it was

Resolved:-to formally adopt the attached budget for 2019/2020

141/19 Town Council Precept - To agree the Town Council precept for 2019-20

Resolved:- to set the annual precept for 2019/20 at £316,462.

Thanks were recorded to the Town Clerk and all committee members for the work that had gone into producing the budget.

142/19 Town Council Community Grants

a) To consider Community Grant Applications received from local groups and award grants for 2019-20.

Resolved:- to award the following grants to local groups.

Organisation	Amount Awarded
Wem Albion Bowling Club	£400
Wem Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society	£500

Wem Army Cadet Force League	£200
Wem Baptist Holiday Bible Club	£200
Wem Carnival Committee	£500
Wem Cricket Club	£500
Wem Jubilee Band	£500
NS Wheelers	£500
Wem Tennis Club	£500
Wem Bowling Club	£500
Welcome to Wem Community Group	£100
1 st Wem Girl Guiding	£200
Vehicles of Interest	£400

Meeting ended 8.40

Mayor.....