

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning, Transport and Climate Change Committee held on Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 14.00 in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

Present:- Councillor P Glover (Chairman) Councillors, P Broomhall, P Dee, R Dodd, R Drummond, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

**1 Chairman** – to elect a Committee Chairman

**RESOLVED:- to appoint Cllr Glover as Committee Chairman for 2019 -20.**

**2 Apologies** - To receive any apologies and reasons for absence.

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

Cllr Soul – Holiday, Cllr Murray

Absent Cllr Nash, Cllr Towers

**3 Public Participation Session** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak (this can be extended at the discretion of the Mayor).

None present

**4 Minutes** – to approve the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 22.1.19

**RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 22.1.19 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Committee Chairman.**

**5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.

The following interests were declared.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
Cllrs Mellings and 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

b) To consider any applications for dispensation.

None received

**6 Shropshire Council's Wem Area Place Plan Review** – for consideration.

Cllr Mellings gave an update on the place plan meeting and he reported that the Place Plan is intended to be a dynamic document and can be updated as and when the need arises.

A discussion took place on the priority of projects and the fact that there was very little mention in the Draft Place Plan of projects in the category A priority - infrastructure needed to unlock development. This was disappointing as the Town Council has

previously raised this need as part of the Town Council's comments on the 2018 Local Plan Review in that *"there should be no more development in the town until the improvements in the existing infrastructure previously raised as part of the first stage of this consultation are addressed. The sewage system, road network, schools and doctor's surgeries all require upgrading in order to cope with new development."*

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

**Transport and Accessibility – Priority A**

Significant Improvements to the highways network throughout the town will be essential to deal with the additional traffic in Wem Town as a result of new development.

Improvements to the level crossing and footbridge to improve safety, across town access and railway station connectivity. Unless a suitable solution is found to the current issues around the level crossing there can be no development to the east side of town, therefore this must be placed as a priority A project.

**Housing, Health and Education – Priority A**

Installation of an all-weather sports pitch for use by Thomas Adams School and the wider community to enhance sporting facilities in the town.

Replacement of temporary classrooms with permanent classrooms at Thomas Adams School. In order to cope with additional students that development will bring Thomas Adams School must have buildings that are fit for purpose. Currently students are taught in 11 temporary classrooms which have been in place for over 20 years and need total replacement.

Upgrading of GP Surgery - Wem GP Surgery needs to expand to meet demand that will arise following increased development in the Wem Area.

**Economic Opportunities – Priority A**

Regeneration of Wem Town Centre to support Wem's role as a district centre as per S17.1 of the SAMDEV plan.

Development of small scale office/workshop and light industry uses and expansion of existing businesses to provide a range and choice of additional local employment opportunities to reduce the need to commute out of town for work.

**Priority B**

Environmental Sustainability of Town Assets in order to meet the Shropshire Council's and the Town Council's aspiration to reduce carbon emissions.

**Community Infrastructure Projects**

Provision of additional allotment land – source of funding should include CIL Local.

Multi pitch sports facility Butler Sports Centre – remove as this is to be moved to a priority A.

Provision of out of town parking for buses and lorries – remove as no longer required.

Improvements to Wem Recreation Ground – amend to state the following, Improvements to sports facilities located on Wem Recreation Ground including Football Pitch, Tennis Courts and Bowling Greens.

Town Centre regeneration - move to Priority A (see above).

Development of a Green Network / corridor through Wem to encourage more cycling and walking and reduce congestion – add.

The Town Council consider that it is unrealistic and unsustainable to expect Community Infrastructure Projects to be funded by The Neighbourhood Fund and Precept in a town where the precept is already one of the highest in the county and that more thought should be given to the funding of these projects.

Meeting ended at 15.00

Chairman.....