

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7 p.m in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.**

**Present:-** Councillor E Towers (Mayor) Councillors, P Broomhall, P Glover (Deputy Mayor), P Dee, C Granger, P Johnson, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyses, J Murray, G Nash, C Shingler, P White.

6 members of the public present.

Cllr Towers invited the Mayor’s Chaplain Colin Jones to say prayers at the start of the meeting.

Jon Murgatroyd, Chairman of Wem Rural Parish Council outlined the background to the email sent from Wem Rural Parish Council regarding the Wem Economic Forum. He stated that the Parish Council would like to provide some funding to the forum to enable it to move forward on projects that would be defined by the forum not by the Parish Council. A discussion took place on the need to ensure that public money is spent wisely.

**86/17 To receive apologies for absence.**

**RESOLVED:-** to receive the following apology for absence  
R Dodd

**87/17 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 Mellings and Cllr Dee | Twin-hatted member 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 Mellings, Cllr Towers | Item 94/17, 104/17 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 Moyses                | Item 94/17, 104/17 Board member Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre  |   |

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

**88/17 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.  
Land opposite the Mill - Mr Edwards raised concerns that the plans may be amended again and urged The Council to keep objecting to any development

on this site. He also raised the issue of a ramp that has been installed to the front of a neighbouring property to facilitate disabled access which necessitates a vehicle having to park in front of the property and stated that if permission were to be granted then account would need to be taken of this to ensure that residents could still access their property.

Arriva Buses – Mr Edwards stated that the alteration to the bus service caused by the gas main replacement is causing problems for residents and bus drivers, Mr Edwards asked if it would be possible to allow the buses to access the crossing in both directions. Cllr Mellings responded that it is expected that the temporary one way system would only be in place for another week, and then the traffic using the crossing will be controlled by traffic lights for the remainder of the works.

Mill Street works – Mr Edwards requested that the Town Council identify in the planning permission notice exactly where the footpath is to be located as it would be far better if the footpath was on the road side of the wall.

Mrs Richardson from Wem Civic Society took the opportunity to promote the Harvest Market this weekend and outlined the events planned. She also reported that a consultation on a community mural is taking place in the library and should be supported. She also made some points about the importance of the library to the town and that it should be retained and be allowed to grow.

A resident of Aston Street raised concerns about the impact that traffic and in particular HGV's were having on his property. He stated that the poor road surface coupled with the speed of traffic along the road were causing significant vibration problems for properties which not only caused damage to the property itself but also had a significant impact on residents causing loss of sleep. He urged The Council to campaign for traffic calming measures and an improved road surface along Aston Street. In addition he requested that restrictions be placed on HGV's accessing the town and that the 20mph zone be extended throughout the town.

**89/17 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

**RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**90/17 Progress report** - To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

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

**91/17 Planning Applications.**

**a) Planning Applications for consideration**

i) 17/04067/TPO 19 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT

Proposal: To the crown reduce one Lime Tree by 30% protected by The Salop County Council (Wem, Wemsbrook) TPO 1972

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

ii) 17/03475/VAR Islington House , 79 New Street, Wem, SY4 5AF  
 Proposal: Variation of Condition No. 2 (approved plans) attached to 16/05869/FUL to allow for insertion of rooflights and creation of dormer windows to facilitate the creation of first floor accommodation

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

iii) 17/03581/FUL Erection of one pair of semi-detached dwellings; formation of parking spaces; following demolition of 16 garages. Cordwell Park, Wem  
 A discussion took place on the impact that the development could have on neighbouring properties and it was

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

**The Town Council has no objection in principal to the application however the Town Council is mindful of comments made about the application by the occupants of the property to the west of the site which is not shown on the plans in their letter of representation dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Therefore the Town Council require assurance that the perspective of the property is taken into account and there is dialogue between the occupiers of this property and the applicant to reach a compromise that is satisfactory to both parties.**

iv) Shropshire Council Planning Reconsultation - Amendment 17/03172/REM - Proposed Dwelling South Of Tilley Lodge.  
 It was reported that this application had been granted permission prior to the Town Council meeting.

v) 17/04308/FUL Proposed Dwelling Adjacent Riverside, Mill Street, Wem,  
 Proposal: Erection of 1No. dwelling.

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

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

The Clerk updated the Council on decisions that had been made after the agenda had been published. A discussion took place on the importance of continuing to object to applications on the land opposite The Mill. Councillors expressed dismay at the fact that the applicant was being encouraged to amend the application given the fact that all previous applications on this land had been previously refused.

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

**92/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment**

a) 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 |
|----------|---------|-----|-----|-------|------------|
|----------|---------|-----|-----|-------|------------|

|                    |                   |        |       |         |       |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| Shropshire Council | Payroll           |        |       | 6371.52 | DD    |
| Plymol             | Town Flag Deposit | 120.00 | 24.00 | 144.00  | 72.17 |
| Talk Talk          | Broadband         | 16.00  | 3.20  | 19.20   | DD    |

### Payments for approval

| Supplier                      | Service   | Net      | Vat     | Gross    | Chq / BACS |
|-------------------------------|---|----------|---------|----------|------------|
| Plymol                        | Flag balance  | 120.00   | 24.00   | 144.00   | 72.17      |
| West Mercia Energy            | Toilets Electricity   | 24.06    | 1.20    | 25.26    | 73.17      |
| PG Skips                      | Rec. bin emptying   | 64.05    | 12.81   | 76.86    | 74.17      |
|                               | Cemetery bin emptying   | 40.55    | 8.11    | 48.66    |            |
|                               | Skip Cemetery   | 70.00    | 14.00   | 84.00    |            |
|                               | Total to pay  |          |         | 209.52   |            |
| Welch and Phillips            | Toilet Door replacement   | 3161.00  | 632.20  | 3793.20  | 75.17      |
| Mazars                        | Annual Audit  | 600.00   | 120.00  | 720.00   | 76.17      |
| Wem Swimming Lifestyle Centre | Contribution  | 14500.00 |         | 14500.00 | 77.17      |
| Mark Fitton                   | August Bus Shelter Cleaning                                     | 45.00    |         | 45.00    | 78.17      |
| Viking Direct                 | Stationery  | 72.93    | 14.59   | 87.52    | 79.17      |
| Shropshire Council            | Streetlighting energy 1 <sup>st</sup> + 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter | 5983.64  | 1196.72 | 7180.36  | 80.17      |
| Ricoh                         | Copier lease  | 105.01   |         |          | 81.17      |
|                               | Copies  | 74.71    |         |          |            |
|                               | Total   | 179.72   | 35.94   | 215.66   |            |
| SALC                          | Training Better Councillor Chairmanship skills                  | 65.00    |         |          | 82.17      |
|                               | Total   | 25.00    |         | 90.00    |            |
| E.on                          | Streetlight repairs   | 229.41   | 45.88   | 275.29   | 83.17      |
| WSSA                          | Contribution  | 9000.00  | 1200.00 | 10200.00 | 84.17      |
| Arrow County Supplies         | Refuse sacks  | 91.38    | 18.28   | 109.66   | 85.17      |
| Via Della Emilia              | Cemetery Hedge Cutting  | 455.00   | 91.00   | 546.00   | 86.17      |
| Shropshire Housing Group      | Solo Protect  | 19.95    |         | 19.95    | 87.17      |
| Severn Business Solutions     | Computer repair   | 22.50    | 4.50    | 27.00    | 88.17      |
| Healthmatic                   | Cleaning and Maintenance Sept                                   | 787.50   | 157.50  | 945.00   | 89.17      |

|              |                 |         |  |         |       |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|--|---------|-------|
| David Murray | Floral Planters | 2500.00 |  | 2500.00 | 90.17 |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|--|---------|-------|

b) To note conclusion of the Annual Audit.

The Clerk reported that Mazars had completed the Annual Audit of the Town Council with no comments.

**RESOLVED**:- to note.

**93/17 Amenities and Services Committee meeting 20.9.17.**

To receive these minutes and approve non confidential recommendations contained therein. Cllr Johnson presented these minutes.

**RESOLVED**:- to receive these minutes and approve non confidential recommendations contained therein.

**94/17 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group meeting 6.9.17**

To receive these minutes and approve recommendations contained therein  
As there were no recommendations within the minutes it was;

**RESOLVED**:- to receive these minutes.

**95/17 Shropshire Council Consultations**

a) Parking Strategy – to consider the Town Council’s response to the strategy. A discussion took place on this item and it was;

**RESOLVED**:- that instead of filling in the survey the Clerk was instructed to write a letter to Shropshire Council outlining the Town Council’s strong objections to the proposals, as any increase in parking charges for both visitors and residents will negatively impact on the economic growth of the Town. As a result of this concern the Town Council request that Shropshire Council remove all parking charges from the town’s car parks in order to support businesses and in turn boost economic growth.

**96/17 Road Safety Concerns**

a) Extension of 20mph zone in Town – to discuss email received. An email asking the Town Council to consider supporting a campaign to increase the 20mph zone in the town was considered.

**RESOLVED**:- to note the email and discuss the matter at the October meeting following the attendance of Councillors at the 20mph conference.

b) To consider any other road safety concerns to be submitted to Shropshire Council

**RESOLVED**:- to support the following road safety concern

- **Priority flow of traffic over the level crossing – to request that Shropshire Council considers altering the priority flow of traffic across the level crossing to give priority to traffic crossing from**

**Aston Road / Station Road as this is the way that drivers already negotiate the junction by giving way to traffic to prevent queuing on the tracks.**

**In addition to this it was FURTHUR RESOLVED:-**

**To report to Shropshire Council Highways the concern raised over the effect of vibrations on residents and buildings along Aston Street caused by large vehicles travelling over the poor road surface.**

- 97/17 Relief Road** – To receive an update from a meeting held with Owen Paterson. Cllr Towers reported that he held a very positive meeting with Owen Paterson to discuss the relief road and as it was vital to have the support of Shropshire Council on this initiative. Owen Paterson had agreed to set up a meeting between the Town Council, Shropshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways Steve Davenport and senior officers to discuss the matter further.

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

- 98/17 Ceremonial Town Flag** - to consider a request for a contribution towards the purchase of (at request of Cllr Towers).

Item withdrawn.

- 99/17 Correspondence** – to consider the following items of correspondence  
a) Wem Rural Parish Council – to consider an email received from Wem Rural Parish Council. Councillors welcomed the presentation from the Chairman of Wem Rural Parish Council at the beginning of the meeting and thanked Wem Rural Parish Council for the work it had done to breathe new life into the forum. Councillors supported the principal of making a financial contribution towards the Economic Forum to enable small scale projects to be started, however concerns were raised that it was important to develop an action plan before any requests for funding could be considered as Councillors were not willing to release public funds unless they were for a specific project.

**RESOLVED:- to support in principal the suggestion of providing a financial contribution to the forum, however prior to any contribution being made a project action plan must be developed by the forum. Once an action plan has been completed then the Town Council will consider making provision in the 2018-19 budget for a financial contribution to Wem Economic Forum.**

- 100/17 Grant Committee** – to consider formation of a Grants Committee (at request of Cllr Moyse).  
Cllr Moyse presented this item and a discussion took place. Councillors felt that the best starting point for this type of suggestion would be for Cllr Moyse to discuss his idea with Sue Thomas from the Community Enablement Team at Shropshire Council.

**RESOLVED:- that Cllr Moyse discusses this matter in more detail with the Community Enablement Officer for Wem.**

**101/17 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 Mellings presented a written report of his activities over the previous month.

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

**102/17 Future agenda items – for consideration.**

None received

**103/17 Dates of future meetings – to note the date of the October meeting and agree the date of the December meeting.**

**RESOLVED:- to note the date of the October meeting as 26.10.17 and to set the date of the December meeting as 14.12.17**

**104/17 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.

**RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public**

a) To consider the confidential recommendation of the Amenities and Services Committee in relation to the awarding of the LED conversion tender.

**RESOLVED:- to award the contract for LED conversion to Highline Electrical subject to the work being completed by 31.12.17**

b) Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre lease amendment. – To consider response received from Hatchers.

**RESOLVED:- to**

**Approve the variation of clause 5.11 to stating that the first break date is 1 April 2027 and thereafter every three years.**

**Approve the removal of clause 5.12 in the lease.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED:- that due to the tight timescales to delegate authority to the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee to approve the tender specification for the construction of the extension**

Meeting ended at 21.10

Mayor.....