

**Minutes of a Meeting of Wem Town Council held in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House,
New Street, Wem on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 7 p.m.**

Present:-Councillors, J Murray (Mayor) Mrs R Dodd (Deputy Mayor), P Moyse, Mrs C Granger, Mrs K Bailey, Mrs P Dee, C Mellings, P Glover, C Shingler, P Broomhall, D Boddy, P Johnson and E Towers.

Mrs Penny O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

2 members of the public present

261/16 To receive apologies and reasons for absence.
RESOLVED:- to accept the following apologies for absence
Cllr Meakin

262/16 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests.

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 declarations were received

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Towers and Cllr Mellings	Item 9 - Directors of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Councillors allowed to participate but not vote in all discussions regarding this organisation
Shropshire Councillors Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dee	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation previously granted to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Mellings	Item 15 and 16 Customer Service Consultation – board member for Shropshire Housing Group	Councillor allowed to participate but not vote in all discussions regarding this organisation

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

263/16 Public Participation Time a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
Mr Edwards raised the following issues;
Bus service 511 concerns were raised that a new company had won the contract and this may result in changes to the quality and frequency of the service, this concern was also raised by Mrs Burton who wanted assurance that the buses would be suitable for passengers with mobility problems.
Mill Street sewage, it was reported that this is still a problem and in need of sorting out.

Mill Street corner - Mr Edwards reported that vehicles are ignoring the yellow hatching which is causing problems so the yellow hatching area lines need enforcing.

264/16 Council Minutes

To approve as a correct record, the minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 31st March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

265/16 Reports

- a) **Progress report** - To consider the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

Cllr Mellings and Cllr Dodd attended the meeting at 7.10

Clerk was asked to send a reminder letter to Fimes about the twinning.

RESOLVED:-to note the progress report.

- b) **Police report** – A member of the police will be present to provide a verbal report and take questions on police related matters.

Sgt Greenaway attended the meeting and Cllr Murray welcomed her back to the Town as she had been missed. Sgt Greenaway took a number of questions on the following issues..

Parking in Barnard Street – Councillors reported that parking along the road is still a problem and recently an ambulance could not get to a resident who needed urgent treatment. A suggestion was made that a site meeting be held with, the Police, Shropshire Council and the Town Council to consider long term solutions to this problem.

Police Visibility in the Town – Sgt Greenaway outlined the breadth of work that the officers are currently having to undertake and as a result of this it is having a knock on effect on the visibility of officers in the Town. Sgt Greenaway requested that residents inform her of any areas that they think are in need of attention and she will ensure that her team investigate them.

Crime report – Sgt Greenaway stated that she did not feel that it was helpful to produce a monthly crime report for the Town Council as a number of the reports raised are not actually crimes and do not actually result in a prosecution.

Drugs – It was reported that currently there is no impact on crime figures in the town resulting from drug use.

Speeding on Mill Street – Speed monitoring on Mill Street has been undertaken but none of the figures are particularly bad. Sgt Greenaway emphasised the need for the Town Council to report areas of concern to the Safer Road Partnership so more speed checks can take place.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

266/16 Planning Applications

a) Planning Applications for consideration -

16/01417/REM - 2 Summerfield Road Proposal: Reserved matters pursuant to Outline permission reference 14/00247/OUT dated 27th June 2015 for the erection of one dwelling to include access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

RESOLVED:-not to object.

16/00994/FUL : Roseville, New Street, Wem, SY4 5AB Proposal: Erection of one 2-storey residential building to comprise four self contained apartments for supported living for adults with learning difficulties and one staff bedroom.

RESOLVED:- not to object.

b) To note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:-to note the report.

267/16 Finance and Accounts for Payment

To approve accounts for payments and payments made prior to meeting.

Payments made prior to meeting

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq no.	Date Paid
Barclays Bank	Charges	8.33		8.33	DD	06.4.16
Shropshire Council	Payroll March	6486.71		6486.71	DD	08.4.16
Shropshire Council	Office rent and service charge 1 st quarter	1525.00		1525.00	106533	14.4.16
Shropshire Council	Cemetery Rates	62.92		62.92	106535	14.4.16
NALC	Local Council Review	34.00		34.00	106536	14.4.16
PG Skips	Recreation ground bin emptying	64.05	12.81	76.86	106537	14.4.16
PG Skips	Cemetery bin emptying	40.55	8.11	48.66	106538	14.4.16
Springhill Tree Management	Urgent Tree works recreation ground	160.00	32.00	192.00	106539	14.4.16
Forester and Arborist Services Ltd	Tree inspection	210.00		210.00	106540	14.4.16
Mark Fitton	Bus shelter cleaning April	45.00		45.00	106541	14.4.16
Shropshire Council	Planning Application Fee for Swimming Pool extension	385.00		385.00	106542	14.4.16
Web Orchard	Website set up, migration, training	680.00	136.00	816.00	106543	14.4.16

Friends of Swimming Pool	6 month contribution	29000.00		29000.00	106545	20.4.16
BT	Phone Bill	58.43	11.69	70.12	DD	20.4.16
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD	20.4.16

Payments to be approved

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Viking	Stationary	85.37	6.07	91.44	106546	28.4.16
CASPA	Subscription	8.00	0	8.00	106547	28.4.16
Meon ltd	Spray paint	27.50	5.50	33.00	106548	28.4.16
Eon	Lighting repairs	457.56	91.51	549.07	106549	28.4.16
Amberol	Planters	270.00	54.00	324.00	106550	28.4.16
NS Print	Receipt books	72.00	14.40	86.40	106551	28.4.16
Wem Town Hall	Contribution	22000.00	0	22000.00	106552	28.4.16
WSSA	Contribution 6 month	9000.00		9000.00	106553	28.4.16
West Mercia Energy	Electricity Toilets	79.32	3.97	83.29	106554	28.4.16
The Blast Shop	Firmabond – memorial fixant	67.00	13.40	80.40	106556	28.4.16
Total April expenditure		72320.18	392.66	71235.40		

268/16 Audit Committee Meeting 20.4.16 – to approve these minutes and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED:- to approve the recommendations outlined in the committee minutes.

269/16 Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre Liaison Committee meeting 18.4.16 - to approve these minutes and recommendations contained therein.
As he represents the WSLC at this meeting Cllr Mellings requested that the word Cllr is removed as a prefix to his name in the minutes.

RESOLVED:- to note the committee minutes.

270/16 Armed Forces Day Working Party minutes 19.4.16 - to approve these minutes and recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED:- to note the working party minutes.

271/16 Public Toilets

a) Cleaning contract – to consider specification and agree length of contract to be awarded.

RESOLVED:- to approve the contract specification and to set the duration of the contract for a period of 3 years.

b) Hot Water – to consider request for the addition of hot water in public toilets

RESOLVED:-to defer a decision on this item as other maintenance works are more pressing.

272/16 Honorary Townsman Award – to consider adopting eligibility criteria when considering applications for the award.

A discussion took place and councillors felt that the criteria should match what was already written on the certificate.

Following a unanimous vote, it was

RESOLVED:- to adopt the following eligibility criteria;

The award can be given to anybody in recognition of their services to the town and its people.

273/16 Welcome Pack - to consider the production of an information pack to be distributed to all residents moving into the town.

Cllr Moyse presented this item and circulated a briefing sheet on the project and asked for suggestions on what to include in the pack.

RESOLVED:- to support the initiative.

274/16 Dog Fouling – to discuss the problem of dog fouling in the town.

It was reported that the problem of dog fouling had improved in recent weeks with the lighter nights. However in order to highlight the problem and alert residents to the presence of dog faeces a biodegradable spray had been purchased for use on the recreation ground as a trial. It was suggested that a multi agency approach should be taken to try and tackle this problem across the town.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

275/16 Confirmation of Local Connection – to consider an application received from Shropshire Housing Group to confirm the local connection of an applicant for shared ownership in Wem.

It was reported that the application had been withdrawn however that this had highlighted the need for the Town Council to adopt a confirmation of local connection policy and put in place a process by which the applications were verified. Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED:-

- **Subject to the revision of the policy to cover applications for local connection from all Housing Associations and Shropshire Council to adopt the confirmation of local connection policy.**
- **Establish a Verification Committee with delegated powers to consider and verify applications as per the policy and appoint The Mayor, Cllr Dee and Cllr Granger to sit on this committee with Cllr Broomhall in reserve.**

276/16 Customer Service Provision in Edinburgh House – To receive an update on the proposed closure of the provision.

RESOLVED:- to receive the update.

277/16 Queens 90th Birthday Celebration – to receive a verbal report from meeting held 26.4.16.
Cllr Granger gave a report on the meeting and updated the council on the progress of the group.

RESOLVED:-to receive the report.

278/16 Councillor Commission – to consider invitation received for the Town Council to take part in research of the role and work of councillors, and of the contribution made by councillors to the governance of their communities and the country.

Cllr Towers presented this item and requested that the Town Council becomes involved with the research.

RESOLVED:- to agree in principal to the request.

279/16 Nat West Bank – To discuss the closure of the Wem branch of Nat West.

Cllr Murray reported on the recent notice of closure of the branch and stated how disappointed he was with the possible loss of the branch and the adverse impact it will have on the residents and businesses in the town.

RESOLVED:-

To write a strong letter of objection to chief executive and chairman of Nat West and urge that the following alternative options are considered instead of full closure.

1. A reduction in opening hours.

2. The introduction of a mobile banking service as used successfully in other areas of the country.

280/16 Correspondence – to consider the following items.
SALC Membership – to receive letter outlining benefits of membership and to consider becoming members for 2016-17.

RESOLVED:-to approve membership for 2016-17.

Post 16 Education Transport Assistance for Entitled Shropshire Students – Consultation on Arrangements for September 2016 - for consideration.

RESOLVED:- to object to the proposals as the costs will have a significant impact on post 16 students wishing to study outside of Wem.

Speeding and dangerous driving on Aston Road, Wem - to receive email correspondence.

RESOLVED:- to support the issue as a community led concern and report the matter to Shropshire Council Highways as per the road safety policy.

Wem Industrial Estate – to consider letter relating to the need for road safety measures on Soulton Road.

RESOLVED:- to support the issue as a community led concern and report the matter to Shropshire Council Highways as per the road safety policy.

Avalon Television Ltd – to consider request for the title of the Story of Wem to be shown on the TV programme Taskmaster.

RESOLVED:-to give permission for the use of the book but to request a donation to the Mayor's charity as part of the permission.

Shropshire Council Emergency Planning Briefing 1st June 2016 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. – to nominate a representative to attend.

RESOLVED:- Cllr Moyse to attend the briefing session.

281/16 Reports

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
Cllr Broomhall reported that he had attended youth club meeting – club is doing well and will now be covering the holiday sessions.

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee.
Cllr Mellings reported that a meeting would be held with Shropshire Council to look at commissioning options in Wem for future services. He also reported on the following items
Cardboard recycling – Plans are in place for kerbside recycling to be re-introduced in the next 12 months.
Incinerator – Cllr Mellings suggested that a tour of the new waste incinerator may be of interest to Councillors and reported he would try and set up a tour.
Westlands Site – A meeting is to be held with residents to resolve parking issues in the area.

282/16 Information/future agenda items – for consideration – none.

283/16 Dates of future meetings –

a) To note date of May meeting 26th May 7pm
b) To note change to date of Annual Town meeting. Tuesday 17th May at 7pm.

284/16 Exclusion of press and public

To resolve: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public.

a) Wem Sports and Social Association – to receive a report on recent meeting held with the association's Solicitors to consider constitutional issues.

Cllr Mellings reported on the meeting with the solicitor which was set up to look at the different options available to the association relating to the future of the charity and the club.

RESOLVED:- to note the report

Mayor.....

DRAFT