

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 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, R Dodd, C Granger, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyse, J Murray, C Shingler

5 members of the public present.

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

Cllr Towers welcomed Sgt Claire Greenaway from Wem Safer Neighbourhoods Team to the meeting. She reported that in recent months there had been a significant increase in the number of burglaries of outbuildings and vehicles in the town. Some of the buildings and vehicles that were broken into were not secure and there was a need for the public to be vigilant and secure outbuildings and lock vehicles. She also explained that many of the crimes had been discussed on social media sites but were not formally reported to the police, which meant that potentially vital evidence against the criminals was lost. In addition to this the posting of photos of suspects on social media was not helpful as it could damage credibility of any evidence. On a positive note it was reported that the individual involved in the majority of the crimes had now been tagged and break-ins have dropped dramatically. Partnership working is also ongoing with local Housing Associations as the people committing the crimes are in breach of tenancy agreements and would be issued with eviction notices where appropriate.

Cllr Murray asked why magistrates were not issuing stronger sentences against these individuals, Sgt Greenaway responded that the magistrates were working to rehabilitate offenders instead of lock them up so that they were able to access the support services they need in order to address their problems. A discussion took place on the work that was being carried out to support the victims of crime. Cllr Moyse explained the view of the magistrates and quashed some of the rumours that have been circulating.

A question was asked about the poor response time to incidents due to the lack of police in the town and Sgt Greenaway explained how the police prioritise their work. Sgt Greenaway was thanked for her presentation and for the work of her team.

**65/17 To receive apologies for absence.**

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the following apologies for absence

P Johnson, G Nash, P White.

**66/17 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.

<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	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council

	relationship with Shropshire Council	
Cllr Mellings	Item 76/17 Wem Sports and Social Association Committee member and Board member Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Dee, Cllr Mellings	Item 75/17 Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority board members	
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Towers	Item 85/17a 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 85/17a Board member Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	
Cllr Murray, Dodd, Moyse, Granger	Item 70/17/ii 17/03552/FUL – Cllr Murray, applicant. Cllr Dodd, Moyse, neighbours, Cllr Granger friend of applicant	

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011. A dispensation was received from Cllr Towers requesting that he be allowed to participate but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

**RESOLVED:- to award a dispensation to Cllr Towers to allow him to participate but not vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.**

**67/17 Public Participation Time** - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

Mrs Edwards asked the following questions:-

- Has the planning application been withdrawn for the development opposite Wem Mills? The Clerk responded that she was not aware of this.
- Will the wall adjacent to the Mill Bank planning development, be moved back and a new pavement created behind the wall? Cllr Mellings reported that the moving of the wall was not part of the planning permission however he believed that a new footpath was planned to run behind the wall.

The Council was asked to explain how the partial closure of the Level Crossing during the gas pipe replacement works would operate.

Mr and Mrs Richardson raised concerns that the gas pipe replacement works and associated partial road closures could impact negatively on the success of Wem

Harvest Market. They stated that the proposed one way system would have a detrimental impact on the more vulnerable residents living on the Soultton Road side of the level crossing. A number of other concerns about the proposed works were raised including the need to ensure that less mobile residents could still access the town centre otherwise there was a danger of them being cut off from key services during the 3 week period. In addition to this there were concerns that vehicles following Satnav instructions may cause congestion if they do not follow the diversion.

Mrs Price, Chairman of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre made the Council aware that the community share offer for the pool will be launched on 2.9.17 with shares of between £50 to £4000 being offered for sale. A question was asked about the price of the shares and whether the price can be lowered. It was reported that this had been considered but due to the amount that the committee were hoping to raise and the administration involved it was felt £50 was a suitable starting point.

**68/17 Council Minutes.**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**69/17 Progress report -** To note the Clerks progress report on matters arising at previous meetings.

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

**70/17 Planning Applications.**

**a) Planning Applications for consideration**

i) 17/03247/REM – Approval of reserved matters (appearance landscaping layout and scale) pursuant to 13/05119/OUT for residential development to include means of access. Proposed Development Land Adj Creamore Villa, Whitchurch Road, Wem, SY4 5QR

It was noted that concerns had been expressed about the fact that the development would overlook the adjacent properties. However following a discussion it was;

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

ii) 17/03552/FUL – Erection of a single storey side extension, 6 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN

Cllr Murray, Dodd, Moyse and Granger left the room and took no part in discussions.

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

iii) 17/03612/FUL – Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of a boundary fence (retrospective), Kaibo, 118 High Street, Wem, SY4 5TT

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

iv) 17/03582/FUL - Erection of 6 No. dwellings and alterations to car parking and access Proposed Residential Development Land To The East Of New Street Wem

**RESOLVED:- to support on the proviso that the properties are offered to people with a local connection to Wem.**

Cllr Dee entered the meeting at 20.00

v) 17/03830/FUL - Conversion of residential dwelling to 2 no flats, Roden Lodge, Mill Street, Wem, SY4 5DD.

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

vi) 17/03688/CPL - Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed erection of single storey side extension 3 Sycamore Drive, Wem, SY4 5AQ,

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

vii) 17/03172/REM - Proposed Dwelling South Of Tilley Lodge, Tilley Road, Wem, Approval of Reserved Matters (design, external appearance and landscaping) pursuant to Outline application 16/04872/OUT (access for consideration) for the erection of one dwelling (bungalow); to include some demolition.

**RESOLVED:- not to comment.**

viii) 17/03884/FUL - Alterations and extension to dwelling to include replacement detached garage and sheds: Bank Villa, Bankhouse Lane, Wem, SY4 5TR.

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

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

**RESOLVED:- to note the report on recent planning decisions.**

**71/17 Finance and Accounts for Payment**

a) To approve accounts for payment and any payments made prior to meeting.

**Payments made prior to the meeting**

**RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments made prior to the meeting.**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq BACS No
Shropshire Council	Payroll	7,955.46		7,955.46	DD
	Petty Cash	48.89		48.89	300049

Healthmatic	Door Furniture	161.80	32.36	194.16	56.17
Came & Company Insurance	Additional Buildings Insurance	499.71	59.97	559.68	57.17
WSSA	Floodlights Contribution	20000.00		20000.00	58.17
CCLA	Public Sector Deposit Fund	25000.00		25000.00	Transfer
Talk Talk	Broadband	16.00	3.20	19.20	DD

### **Payments for approval**

### **RESOLVED:- to authorise the following payments**

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Chq / BACS No</b>
LCR	Subscription	34.00		34.00	59.17
PG Skips	Recreation bin emptying	51.24	10.25	61.49	60.17
	Cemetery bin emptying	32.44	6.47	38.93	
	Skip	70.00	14.00	84.00	
	Total to pay			184.42	
PG Skips	Supply of mini skip Wem Swimming Pool	115.00	23.00	138.00	61.17
Mark Fitton	Cleaning of Bus Shelters August	45.00		45.00	62.17
Severn Trent water	Allotments Water Supply	162.61		162.61	63.17
Severn Business Solutions	Licences	127.20	25.44	152.64	64.17
Healthmatic	Cleaning and Maintenance Public Toilets August	787.50	157.50	945.00	65.17
RDS	Updating of Honours Boards	82.50		82.50	66.17
Water Plus	Water supply public toilets	262.88		262.88	67.17
Silk Sharples Jennings	Building Valuations	700.00	140.00	840.00	68.17
Severn Business Solutions	Virus renewal 3 yr	39.58	7.92	47.50	69.17
Shropshire Pools and Spas	Filters	14100.00			70.17
	Chemical dosing unit	4979.15			
	Total	19079.15	3815.83	22894.98	
Shropshire Housing Group	Solo Protect	19.95		19.95	71.17
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	6.00		6.00	DD
Wem WI	Refreshments Armed Forces Day	9.00		9.00	300050

B Humphreys	Holiday Cover	37.50		37.50	300051
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**72/17 Communications Working Party Meeting 7.8.17.**

To receive this report and approve recommendations contained therein.  
Cllr Moyse presented a report of this meeting and it was

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the report and approve recommendations contained therein.

**73/17 Asset Transfer Working Party meeting 7.8.17.**

To receive this report and approve recommendations contained therein.

Cllr Towers presented the report of this meeting and outlined the recommendations included in the minutes.

**RESOLVED**:- to receive the report and approve recommendations contained therein.

**74/17 Shropshire Council Consultations**

a) Parking Strategy – to consider attendance at consultation event.

**RESOLVED**:- that the Clerk, Cllrs Moyse, Dee and Towers would attend this event.

b) Library Strategy - for consideration.

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

**The Town Council agrees with the vision, mission, objectives and principals that have been set out in support of the delivery of the draft strategy.**

**In relation to Wem Library, the Town Council does not agree with the recommended hierarchy of provision set out in the draft strategy. Wem library is a well-used library providing an essential service to a growing community and should be a tier 2 not tier 3 library as currently proposed.**

**Wem library is currently leased by Shropshire Council until 2022 and if as the current proposals state, the library is to be categorised as a Tier 3 library and funding is to be withdrawn by 2019 it will be prohibitive to expect a community organisation to cover the rent and associated running costs for the building. If the library is to then be closed Shropshire Council will have to pay rent on an empty building which is not a good use of tax payers money.**

**75/17 Fire and Rescue Services Governing Body Proposal – for consideration**

Cllr Dee and Cllr Mellings left the room. Following a discussion it was

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

**The Town Council does not support the proposals for the Police and Crime Commissioner to take on the governance of local fire services in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire.**

**76/17 WSSA Constitution** – to consider inclusion of Wem Swimming Pool as part of a newly created charity.

Cllr Mellings presented his report on this and a discussion took place as to the benefits of including Wem Swimming Pool as part of any new charity created.

**RESOLVED:- to not include the Swimming Pool as part of the new charity.**

**77/17 Items requested at previous meetings.**

a) Provision of Past Mayor Badges – for discussion.

The Clerk presented a quote received for the production of a generic Town Council badge instead of a specific Past Mayor's badge. It was explained that a generic badge could be engraved with the words Past Mayor and also used for other awards. This option would reduce costs however it would still require an upfront cost to the Council in the design of the badge and initial production of badges for past Mayors.

A discussion took place and Councillors expressed the view that whilst it would be a nice gesture to honour Past Mayors, the production of a badge would be a significant expense to the Council at a time when funds were needed to support essential services. In addition to this it was felt that there may be a cheaper option for example the production of a certificate.

**RESOLVED:- to request that an example of the type of badge discussed is provided for consideration at a future meeting. The Clerk was also instructed to find out how other Town Councils honour Past Mayors.**

b) Town Crier – please see attached proposal form.

Cllr Towers presented his report which explained the benefits of appointing a Town Crier for Wem. A discussion took place on whether expenditure on a Town Crier could be justified in the current financial climate. Whilst there was some support for the proposal following a vote it was.

**RESOLVED:- not to support this proposal.**

c) Welcome to Wem Banners – to discuss project to replace damaged banners.

Cllr Towers presented this item and explained that some of the banners were in need of replacement. Cllr Dee explained that the banners had been produced following a grant being awarded as part of the Warmer Welcome to Wem project. It was suggested that Wem Economic Forum may be best placed to pursue this initiative as the forum was seeking to build its relationship with the businesses in the town.

**RESOLVED:- that the Town Council representatives raise this suggestion at the next Wem Economic Forum meeting.**

d) Men in Sheds – to try and locate a meeting place.

Cllr Towers explained that the Men in Sheds group was still trying to find a place to meet as the youth club building had not proved suitable. He asked Councillors to help in identifying a suitable building for this project.

**RESOLVED:- to note.**

**78/17 Asset Valuation** – to receive a report on recent valuation on Wem Swimming Pool and Public Toilets.

The Clerk reported that the valuation on the Swimming Pool and Public Toilets had been completed and there had been an increase in the valuation of both buildings which had resulted in an increase in the insurance premium.

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

**79/17 Legal Services** – to consider offer from 2D Law.

The service level agreement offered by 2D law was considered and it was

**RESOLVED:- to set up a meeting with 2D Law to discuss the proposals and to request that the Finance and Corporate Governance Committee consider the response at its next meeting.**

**80/17 Trees**

a) Cemetery Hedge - To consider quote to trim Cemetery Hedge

The Clerk presented the quote for the hedgecutting work at the cemetery and it was

**RESOLVED:- to approve the quote.**

b) Tree removal - To consider request permission to remove tree on Council land. It was reported that this was a small multi stemmed alder tree directly adjacent to the property that significantly overhung the garden of the property.

**RESOLVED:- to approve the removal of the tree subject to the works being carried out by an approved tree surgeon and that no cost is charged to the Council.**

**81/17 Correspondence** – to consider the following items of correspondence

a) GP Surgery – to consider response to query about waiting times.

The Clerk was asked to thank the surgery for its response and to offer to help with the promotion of local health campaigns.

**RESOLVED:- to receive.**

Cllr Shingler left the meeting at 21.00

b) To consider email concerning condition of High Street.

Councillors were in agreement with the sentiments of the letter however Councillors considered that as the Town Council has no planning powers it was more appropriate that Shropshire Council Planning Department be requested to start enforcement action on owners of any buildings that are breaching the terms of the conservation area.



**RESOLVED**:- to support the concerns of the resident and to write to the Conservation Officer requesting that enforcement action is taken against owners of premises who breach the terms of the Conservation Area.

c) Shropshire Council's Streetlighting Joint Energy Agreement – for approval.

**RESOLVED**:- to approve.

d) Joining People with Places - A Practical Vision for Travel in Shropshire – for discussion.

**RESOLVED**:- to set up a meeting with the Chairman of Sustainable Transport Shropshire to discuss proposals for Wem.

#### **82/17 Reports**

a) To receive reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Written reports from Cllr Granger and Cllr Mellings were considered and it was

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

b) To receive a report from Shropshire Council Councillors Mellings and Dee. A written report by Cllr Mellings was circulated and it was

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

**83/17 Future agenda items** – for consideration, none raised.

**84/17 Dates of future meetings** – to note date of the September meeting and Honorary Townsman Evening.

**RESOLVED**:- to note that the next Town Council meeting would take place on 28.9.17 and that the Honorary Townsman Award ceremony would take place on 24.11.17

#### **85/17 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 request to issue a letter in relation to break clauses in the swimming pool lease (at request of Cllr Mellings).

**RESOLVED**:- to approve the request to amend the length of break clauses in the Town Council's lease with Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre to 10 years

**subject to WSLC trustees funding any legal fees associated with this amendment.**

b) To receive findings of complaints panel.

It was reported that the complaint against the Council had been heard by the Complaints Panel and the complaint had not been upheld.

**RESOLVED**:- to note

Mayor.....

Meeting ended 21.20