

Report of a Meeting between Representatives of Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust held on Thursday 18th July 2019 at 16.00 in Wem Town Hall.

Present:-

Wem Town Council - Cllrs Mrs C Granger (Chairman), Cllr Broomhall, Cllr Dee, Cllr Dodd, Cllr Towers.

Wem Town Hall - Rose Horner, Roy Reeves, Peter Jones, John Dinsdale

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1. Appointment of Chairman - Item not required as Cllr Granger appointed Chairman at previous meeting.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apology received from Sue Yates

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of a meeting of this Liaison Group held on 20th November 2018

4. To receive an activities report from the representatives of the Trust.

Roy presented the year end accounts for 2018-19 and reported that there was a £11,610 surplus at the year end.

Rose gave a breakdown of the past year which included;

Over 60 volunteers working for the Town Hall

256 arts events including film screenings

231 exhibition days. 5 events per week which shows the venue has grown.

608 hires across the year, a 17% increase on previous year which is due to more use of the Town Room and booking of the meeting rooms for one off meetings.

Roy presented the 1st quarter budget report and stated that traditionally the 1st financial quarter was not strong for a number of external reasons and that the loss was within budget. It was anticipated that as had been the case in previous years the 3rd and 4th quarter would be stronger.

Rose explained that extending Adam's contract had freed up staff to work on other projects and that a grant application was to be submitted to tackle social isolation and build on the work of the dementia cinema project and to develop the project and enable more intergenerational sessions to be run.

There is also a plan to develop befriending work. A discussion took place on this subject and Rose was encouraged to attend a Care Committee meeting to share her ideas and find out about other initiatives being developed in the town.

It was reported that Building Better Opportunities programme is to be extended to June 2022 and the Town Hall had secured funding from this programme to work with young people who are not able to access the Wem into Work project.

The future events programme for the year has been developed and a very popular folk group Altan has been booked for October. There are also a number of arts alive events planned including musical cabaret.

5. To consider any other issues raised.

Markets – A question was asked on the market and what was being done to try and encourage more traders. Several suggestions were made including

- Improve promotion – Hang flags from flagpoles on outside of the building to advertise market on market days
- Visit markets from further afield to see whether they would be interested in attending
- Hold a market month to promote and encourage more traders

It was explained that Oswestry Town Market had picked up in recent months and part of this was due to a knock on effect from Shrewsbury Market which had become so popular that traders were looking for alternatives. They had had success in moving the main area of the market, as traders were happy to bring gazebos to trade from.

Climate Change agenda – It was reported that the Town Council had recently declared a climate emergency and was working to develop an Action Plan to reduce its carbon emissions by 2030. It was anticipated that a climate change forum would be developed of which the Town Hall could become a part.

Meeting ended 17.05