

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wem Urban held on Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7 p.m in The Meeting Room, Wem Library, Wem.

Present:-Councillor G Soul (Town Mayor) and 20 members of the public present.
Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1 **Welcome**

The Mayor welcomed all present and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

2 **To hear presentations from Groups who have been awarded a Town Council General Grant in 2023.**

Wem Jubilee Band - The Secretary of Wem Jubilee Band provided an update on the work of the band and plans for the future. The grant will go towards supporting the work of the band.

North Shropshire Wheelers - Sally Jones Treasurer thanked the Town Council for the grant. She explained that the charity is run by volunteers and the funds will be vital. The aim is to provide accessible and affordable transport for residents of North Shropshire and this grant will go towards the running of the project.

Wem Baptist Church - Lynne Towers explained that the grant would go towards running the holiday bible club for ages 4-11 which has been running for 54 years. They have regularly over 60 children who take part in quizzes, drama and activities.

Hope House Louise Sachdave outlined the work of the hospice which works with young people across Shropshire and Wales and explained that the grant will go towards the purchase of multi-sensory equipment for the children. The hospice is predominantly funded by donations.

Wem Carnival Committee – Louise Green Vice Chairman from Wem Carnival Committee gave a brief history of the carnival which is 113 years old. The event brings thousands of people into the town and costs between £10,000 and £12,000 each year.

Wem Rotary Club - Paul Thornhill Vice President explained the work of the Rotary in the town and how they were currently planning new events for the community. The funds will go towards the running of a music festival in June.

Wem Tennis Club - Andy Hawke ex-chairman of the Tennis Club explained that the grant will go towards the purchase of a defibrillator at the club. The defibrillator will be also for community use. He also outlined the work of the club in the community.

Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery - Secretary, Judy Crichton outlined that the grant would be spent on grasscutting of the cemetery especially with the increase in costs. The group are trying to enhance the wildlife in the cemetery so will be taking part in no mow May and have built a dead hedge for wildlife which is an asset to the cemetery.

Wem Youth Club - Clare Glover and Kaz Plenty gave a brief report on the work of the club which is running twice a week and is at capacity of 42 young people attending with a waiting list. The club also wants to start a session for 14 to 18 year olds.

4 **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 April 2022.**

RESOLVED:- to approve the minutes of 21.4.22 and they were signed by the Mayor

5 **Open Forum** - To consider any Parish matter raised.

It was reported that the matter of addresses having to have Shrewsbury as the postal town instead of Wem is still causing an issue for residents who are still receiving post for properties in Shrewsbury.

The length of time the railway crossing barriers are staying down was raised as it causes an inconvenience for those trying to cross at the crossing. It was agreed that the yellow hatching needs repainting. The need for a bridge was also raised.

Meeting ended 19.45

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Town Mayor