

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees of Wem Sports and Social Association CIO held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 19.00 in the Town Council the meeting room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: E Towers (Chairman) C Bennett, J Gwillam, F Ford, W Ollerenshaw.
Penny O'Hagan – Secretary, John Ralphs - Groundsman.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** – to receive.
The following apologies were received, Mark Hoffmann, Mandy Meakin, Roger Drummond, S Griffiths.

- 2 **Meeting Minutes** – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the trustees meeting held 17.7.25.

Resolved:- to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17.7.25 and they were duly signed by The Chairman as a true record.

- 3 **Progress Report** - To receive a report from the Secretary and Groundsman.

Resolved:- to note the reports received.

- 4 **Finance**

a) To consider budget report to 30.9.25

Resolved:- to note the budget report and balance sheet.

b) Bollard Insurance Claim – for update

The Secretary reported that this was still in progress, however Lakeside Coaches had now agreed to make up any shortfall in the insurance claim so that WSSA is not out of pocket.

Resolved:- to accept the offer of £525 from Lakeside Coaches' insurance company, subject to Lakeside making up the balance required to replace the damaged bollards.

- 5 **Butler Sports Centre**

a) Wem Town FC Ground Use agreement (deferred from July meeting) – for update.

The Secretary reported that a meeting had not been held with Wem Town FC to progress this matter.

Resolved:- to defer to the next meeting.

b) Legionella Risk Assessment and action plan – to consider.

The risk assessment for the Butler Sports Centre was reviewed and it was

Resolved:- to approve the following documents

- **The Legionella Action Plan.**
- **Written Scheme for Management of Legionella 2025.**
- **Wem Sports and Social Association Legionella Policy.**

c) Changing Room refurbishment project (deferred from previous meetings) to discuss.

No progress on this matter

Resolved:- that James Gwillam will progress proposals for refurbishment of the building and report back to the next meeting.

6 Recreation Ground

a) Bulb Planting - To consider request from Rotary regarding planting more crocus bulbs on Wem Recreation Ground on Station road side.

Resolved:- to approve the request for additional bulb planting on Wem Recreation Ground.

b) Wem Tennis Club public court refurbishment – to discuss

A discussion took place on this item and all present agreed that there was a need to improve the surface of the court as it had not been carried out for many years. The Secretary suggested that trustees consider marking the court out in such a way that pickleball could also be played, as it was such a fast growing sport and that there were no community pickleball courts in the area.

Resolved:- that the Secretary will meet with representative from Wem Tennis Club to discuss the potential for a combined tennis and pickleball courts and report back to the next meeting.

c) Wrights Fair – to review

The Secretary explained that the fair itself did not have any major incidents with anti social behaviour on carnival night. Mr Wright put on additional security to enable the fair to open longer as per the hire agreement. The Groundsman reported that there was a significant amount of litter and alcohol bottles on the recreation ground the next day, far more than in previous years. There were also concerns reported on social media following carnival about anti social and intimidatory behaviour on the edges of the recreation ground involving groups of people.

A discussion took place and all present felt that the earlier closing time of the fair was important and that this report should be considered when the closing time of the fair is considered in 2026

Resolved:- to note the report.

7 WSSA Events 2025/26

a) Fireworks - for update, to consider event management plan and correspondence received.

The Secretary presented the work carried out on the event to date.

Resolved:-

- **not to provide free tickets to Prees Pre School as this is a charity event.**
- **to offer Josh Higgins an advertising board as he will be donating logs for the brasier.**
- **approve the event management plan subject to final signing off by the Event Manager Susan Griffiths.**

b) Sports Person of the Year Event – to receive report from working party.

The working party were thanked for their work on this and it was

Resolved:- to

- **approve the recommendation of the working party that the age categories are slightly altered and to set a budget of £300 for the project.**
- **Set a deadline for applications of 31.1.26 with awards being made in March.**

c) Sporting Groups Meeting 18.9.25 – To receive report from.

It was reported that this meeting was not held.

A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed that this meeting needs a revamp a variety of suggestions were made including action planning for sports facilities in Wem in the future or providing an inspirational speaker

Resolved:- to defer to the next meeting.

8 Other Matters of Concern – for consideration.

Recreation Ground Fencing– James Gwillam raised the idea whether the Recreation Ground could be fenced along Park Road so it could be an enclosed space to enable more ticketed events to be held on the rec. This would mean that they need not be held at the Butler Sports centre so this site could be used for football only.

A discussion took place on this item and trustees expressed the view that regular large events on the recreation ground would not be possible due to the proximity of houses and lack of parking. It was possible to hold ticketed events on the recreation ground with the use of temporary fencing in the same way events in The Quarry operate. Concern was also expressed about closing off the paths across the rec as they were heavily used for access.

Football pitch condition – Chris Bennett raised concerns about the current condition of the pitch which due to the very hot dry conditions was becoming unplayable. He explained that Wem Town FC currently had 15 teams and 300 members and the pitch was not up to standard. The Groundsman and Secretary explained that the condition was due to the free draining nature of the soil and lack of rain along with the lack of recovery time for the pitch. The pitch has been fertilised and reseeded as normal but this was ineffective given the weather conditions. A discussion took place on watering the pitch next season and this would require specialist equipment and impact significantly on the water bill. Other suggestions included changing the pitch to artificial grass and having a longer closure period to allow pitch recovery.

Resolved:- that the Groundsman and Wem Town FC would consider options including any grants to improve the pitch and report back to the next meeting.

9 Date of meetings - to set date and time of next meeting.

Resolved:- to set the next meeting as 6pm 4.12.25

Chairman.....

Meeting ended 20.45