

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 26th September 2024
at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: - Cllrs R Dodd (Deputy Mayor, meeting chairman), R Barker, R Drummond, R Gascoigne, P Glover, C Granger, D Hill, P Johnson, E Towers.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1 member of the public present.

758/24 To note apologies for absence received

Apologies were received from Cllrs Soul, Parry, Meakin, Hoffmann, Broomhall.

759/24 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
Cllrs Towers	Twin-hatted member declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Towers	766/24 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Director.	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on any matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Towers	770/24 Trustee of WSSA	To discuss but not vote on any matters relating to Wem Sports & Social Association
Cllr Drummond	770/24 Trustee of WSSA	

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.

None received

760/24 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

A representative from Wem Civic Society explained the background to the meeting held with the developer of Trail Tale and encouraged the Council to support the project as it could provide a reason for people to stay longer in the town which would have a positive effect on the economy of the town.

761/24 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25.7.24 and extraordinary meeting on 29.8.24.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 25th July 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on 29th August 2024 and they were duly signed by The Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

762/24 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

763/24 Planning Applications
a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) to consider the following planning applications
24/02788/FUL - 7 Tannery Court, Wem, SY4 5YZ.
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Installation of a solar system to front and rear elevations.

RESOLVED:- to support the application as the proposed design and appearance of the system will not detract from the conservation area.

24/03293/FUL - Gator Lubricants Ltd, Unit 41, Wem Business Park, New Street, Wem
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Proposed Commercial Building for Storage Use (B8 use)

RESOLVED:- to support the application.

24/03568/OUT - Outline application for residential development to include access Land Off Aston Road Wem Shropshire

RESOLVED:- to strongly support the application as it is an infill site within the development boundary and will provide much needed housing development with the town.

764/24 Finance and Accounts for Payment.
a) Budget report – to consider.

RESOLVED:- to note the budget report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.
It was reported that these are up to date.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment (presented at meeting).

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments and transfers.**Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.**

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries Sept	6800.29		6800.29	BACSPAYROL
	HMRC	2426.08		2426.08	BACSHMRC
	Pensions	2089.71		2089.71	BACSLGPS
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8 Aug – 8 Sept	43.24	0.00	43.24	DD 38.24
EE	Mobile Phones	29.30	5.86	35.16	DD 39.24
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Balance	3.00	0.00	3.00	DD 40.24
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	108.47	21.69	130.16	DD 41.24
Waterplus	Rec Toilet Water 14.6.23 – 14.9.23	48.06	5.15	53.21	DD 42.24
Waterplus	Allotment Water 12.8.24 – 12.9.24	70.83	14.17	85.00	DD 43.24
Unity Trust Bank	Cash/Cheque charges	0.60	0.00	0.60	DD 44.24
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy	62.31	3.12	65.43	DD 45.24
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges	36.90	0.00	36.90	DD 46.24
RL Blyth	Mole Control	70.00	0.00	70.00	118.24
Credit card payments for information only					
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	3.00	0.00	3.00	CC 13.24
Royal Mail Online	50 stamps	45.49	0.00	45.49	CC 14.24
Toolstation	Extension Ladder	162.91	32.58	195.49	CC 15.24

Funds Transfer Prior to Meeting

From	To	Amount	Reason
Nationwide	Unity Trust Bank	£50,000	Solar Project (to be reimbursed)

Funds Transfer to be Approved

From	To	Amount	Reason
Nationwide	Unity Trust Bank	£50,000	Solar Project (to be reimbursed)

Payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Healthmatic	Rec Toilets 1.8 – 31.8	406.29	81.26	487.55	105.24
Healthmatic	Car Park Toilets 17.8 – 16.9	783.25	156.65	939.90	106.24
SecurityWise	Annual Maintenance Contract	600.00	120.00	720.00	107.24
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	141.91	28.41	170.32	108.24
PG Skips	Bin Key	3.00	0.60	3.60	109.24
ISM IT	IT Support	99.99	20.00	119.99	110.24
JDH Business Serv	Internal Audit 23-24	342.00	68.40	410.40	111.24
PKF	External Audit 23-24	1050.00	210.00	1260.00	112.24
Ricoh	Copying Charges	195.65	39.13	234.78	113.24
Sign & Poster	Wem Town Traders Banner	135.00	27.00	162.00	114.24
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	75.00	0.00	75.00	115.24
Fit4Tasks Occ Health	Occupational Health Support	101.70	0.00	101.70	116.24
Highline	Streetlight Repairs Aug	135.00	27.00	162.00	117.24
A Roberts	Car Parking	51.09	10.11	61.20	119.24
C Sumner	Reimbursement Shredding Bags	16.67	3.33	20.00	120.24
Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online	261.00	52.20	313.20	121.24
WSSA	Recharge – workwear	69.99	0.00	69.99	122.24
LJM	Solar Project Payment Release	39,727.82	7,945.56	47,673.38	123.24
Taylor's	New Disabled Toilet	428.94	85.79	514.73	124.24
Taylor's	Repairs	78.50	15.70	94.20	125.24
SJ Jenkins	Lamp column painting	1240.00	0.00	1240.00	126.24
D Murray	Summer Planters	4185.00	0.00	4185.00	127.24
Santa's Village Entertainment Ltd	Snow Globe Hire 25% Deposit	298.75	59.75	358.50	128.24
Taylor's	Water remedial works	185.00	37.00	222.00	129.24

d) Completion of 2023-24 External Audit - to note the completion of the external audit for 2023-24 and to note that the conclusion of the audit has been advertised in accordance with guidance.

Thanks were recorded to the staff for all their work on the external audit.

RESOLVED:- to note.

e) To approve the setting up of a Screwfix account for the purchase of parts and supplies for the Groundsman.

RESOLVED:- to approve the opening of an account with Screwfix.

765/24 Events Liaison Group Christmas Festival meeting 19.9.24 - to receive a report from the meeting and to consider any recommendations arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note the report from the meeting held on 19.9.24 and approve the recommendation contained within.

766/24 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group – to receive a verbal report from the meeting held 25.9.24.

It was reported that the building inspector has signed off the roof work.

RESOLVED:- to note the report from the meeting and approve the recommendation under item 4 and recommendation under item 5 subject to the tile works not exceeding the repairs and maintenance budget for the swimming pool.

767/24 Play equipment

a) Annual Inspection - to review the action plan resulting from the annual rospa. inspection report.

RESOLVED:- to note the action plan and place in the 2025-26 budget an allocation to enable the painting of the play equipment on Cordwell Park, The Grove and Lowe Hill Road.

b) Classic Climber - to discuss the report on the Classic Climber unit and consider quotes received for a replacement item.

Councillors discussed this item and selected the Agito Corroo, Quest Nemesis and Xs Cyclone as items to seek the opinions of students from St Peters School on.

RESOLVED:- to consult with St Peters School to seek the views of students on the equipment selected and make a decision at the October meeting of the Council.

768/24 Autumn Tree Work – to consider quote for various tree works and cemetery hedge cutting.

RESOLVED:- to approve the quotes and award the contract to Via Della Emelia.

769/24 Allotment update – to receive a report on recent inspections and consider requesting a retainer on all new allotments

RESOLVED:- to

- Introduce the payment of a deposit for all new allotment tenants from 1.10.24 of £50 for a quarter plot and £100 for a half plot to be returned when the plot is returned in a condition to the satisfaction of the Town Council.

- **Permit the deposit to be paid in instalments over a period of 5 months if necessary.**

770/24 Councillor Motion - To agree to establish a working party that would review the operation of the Wem Sports and Social Association (WSSA); paying particular attention to the annual financial contribution it receives from WTC and the cost in man-hours of the support provided by the town's groundsman and Town Clerk (from Cllr Barker).

Cllr Barker presented this motion which was seconded by Cllr Johnson.

RESOLVED:- to establish a working party composed of Cllrs Parry, Barker and Johnson with the remit to review the operation of the Wem Sports and Social Association (WSSA); paying particular attention to the annual financial contribution it receives from WTC and the cost in man-hours of the support provided by the town's groundsman and Town Clerk.

771/24 Shropshire Council Future Options Consultation 2024 – to receive an update and consider undertaking a public consultation to identify the services residents value the most to guide where support should be targeted to.

RESOLVED:-

- To establish a working party composed of the Town Clerk and Councillors Parry, Dodd and Gascoigne to meet with representatives from Shropshire Council to discuss any future funding proposals.
- That subject to the outcome of this meeting, to delegate authority to the working party to compose and arrange for the distribution of a survey seeking the views of the community of Wem on what services they consider to be a priority and how much additional precept they may be prepared to pay to support these services. Survey to be sent out prior to the October meeting.

772/24 Establishment of a Cremated Remains Section at Love Lane Cemetery – to form a working party to oversee the development of a specification for this project along with fees and regulations.

RESOLVED:- to establish a working party comprising of Cllrs Parry, Dodd and Johnson to oversee the development of a works specification for this project along with fees and regulations.

773/24 Trail Tale – to consider report requesting support for this project.

RESOLVED:- to submit a letter of support for this project.

774/24 Correspondence

a) SALC AGM – to confirm attendance from a Council representative and consider whether to submit a motion for debate to the AGM

RESOLVED:- not to send a representative or submit a motion.

b) Militia of Anglia Event Suggestion – to consider – it was explained that trustees from WSSA had requested a meeting with a representative from the Militia of Anglia Group.

RESOLVED:- not to progress this item as the offer is being considered Wem Sports and Social Association.

775/24 Marches Energy Agency Information Session – to consider request to hold an information event for local councils (at the request of Cllr Towers).

RESOLVED:- to set up an information event for Councils in the Wem Area.

776/24 Reports

a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
None received.

b) to receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers.
A written report from Cllr Towers and Broomhall was considered.

RESOLVED:- to note the report received from Cllr Towers and Broomhall.

777/24 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of October meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the October meeting will be held on 31.10.24 at 19.00.

Meeting ended 20.15

Mayor.....