

Report of a Meeting between Representatives of Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall Community Trust held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 14.30 in Wem Town Hall.

Present:-

Wem Town Council - Cllrs Soul, R Gascoigne and R Dodd

Wem Town Hall – R Horner, P King, J Dinsdale (chairman), P Jones, H Edwards, S Crawshaw.

P O'Hagan (Town Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Barker and Granger

2. To approve as a correct record the notes of a meeting of this Liaison Group held on 24.7.24

Resolved to approve as a correct record the notes of the meeting held on 24.7.24

3. To receive an activities and financial report from the representatives of the Trust. Rose Horner presented her report (attached) and explained that the Town Hall had received funding to support the SEN hub. Workshops have taken place for staff and volunteers in Makaton which had been well attended, the courses will be run again in the new year and will be opened up to the wider community.

Other activities reported included

Seated yoga classes – One of the halls has been rented by a local business to run this popular new class that has addressed a need highlighted by customers.

Meals on Wheels - These continue to be popular, volunteers make the meals on a Monday, but they are made by the staff on a Friday.

Health and Wellbeing Fair - This was organized in partnership with Wem town Council and Wem Rural PC in October and was very popular, however a name change may be beneficial if it is run again. Future events may also be better held on a weekend to attract people who work but may be interested in becoming involved in volunteering in the community.

Creative Conversations Project - This project targets the over 55's and has allowed the dementia friendly programme to continue to the end of the year.

BFI Places Fund – This funding will provide training to suggest ways to improve the promotion of films to a wider audience.

Markets – Specialist markets are going well and there are 11 regular traders in the weekly indoor market with some casual traders. The website is live but needs more input.

BFI Film Academy – This was run by Media Active and had 30 participants 8 of who were from Wem.

Financial Report

Rose explained it was turning out to be another challenging year although grant funding is above target and discussions are taking place with the Grocott Foundation regarding a funding programme.

A draw fund is in the process of being created similar to the Cricket Club's which will also provide funding.

Discussions have also been held with Shropshire Council about ongoing building issues and responsibilities under the lease. Shropshire Councillors Towers and Broomhall have been very helpful with these discussions.

19.12.24 Agenda item 8a draft notes from Town Hall Liaison Group Meeting 3.12.24

The national budget will impact on the finances as the increase in NI and minimum wage will increase staffing costs for the café by £10,000 per year. Therefore prices in the café will inevitably need to increase.

Overall the projected year end financial position is more positive than anticipated. This is due to an increase in income from lettings, a strong programme and income from grants. Therefore the budgeted loss will hopefully be reduced significantly.

A question was asked about broadening the programme and putting on more live events. Rose responded that she was keen to work in partnership with groups to have more live events as these can bring new people through the door.

4. Wem Town Council's Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Wem Town Hall - to discuss

The Clerk explained that the Town Council would have expected an approach from the Town Hall about a new SLA prior to the meeting. However, as no contact had been received, the SLA would be on the agenda for the December meeting of the Town Council and Councillors will debate whether to enter into another SLA and if so its length and any objectives that they would want included.

5. To consider any other issues raised.

None

Meeting ended at 15.30

Chairman.....