

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 27th June 2024
at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: - Cllrs D Parry (Chairman), R Dodd, C Granger, P Johnson, E Towers, R Drummond, R Barker, R Gascoigne, M Meakin, D Hill, P Broomhall.

Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)
13 members of the public present.

714/24 To note apologies for absence received.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hoffmann, Cllr Soul, Cllr Glover

715/24 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.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllrs Towers and Broomhall	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensations to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Towers	722/24 730/24 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Director. 719/24b 24/00284/COU - 5 Fismes Way, Wem lives opposite applicant	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on any matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre
Cllr Broomhall	722/24, 730/24 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre representative	
Cllr Drummond	719/24b 24/02234/TCA – member of the Millennium Green Committee	

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

Cllr Broomhall submitted a dispensation application to permit him to speak and vote on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

RESOLVED:- to award a dispensation to Cllr Broomhall to permit him to speak and vote on all items relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre for the electoral term.

716/24 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.

719/24 24/00284/COU – several members of the public spoke in objection to the application.

A member of the public raised concerns over the safety of the site due to the number of vehicles which will be visiting the location. Safeguarding of young people in the home and those living in the surrounding area was also a concern, especially during shift changeovers, as staff will not be able to safeguard the residents and move cars at the same time.

A member of the public raised objections to the application and outlined concerns over the proposed parking layout which is not feasible and will mean that cars will need to continuously moved around. It was also highlighted that the garage would require modification to take 2 cars as the floor plan is incorrect.

A member of the public objected on the grounds of the safety of the public. It was claimed that other homes operated by the company behind the application have had issues with police attendance due to the behaviour of residents.

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of The Whitchurch Road which is causing the houses to vibrate and he is concerned the impact this will have on the structure of his house.

717/24 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th May 2024.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th May 2024 and they were duly signed by The Mayor as a correct record.

718/24 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

719/24 Planning Applications

a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the planning decision report.

b) to consider the following planning applications

24/00284/COU - 5 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD Change of use of dwelling (C3) to Children Care Home (C2) (re-consultation due to amendment)

Cllr Towers left the room and took no part in discussions.

RESOLVED:- that the Town Council does not wish to withdraw its objection or make any changes to its original objections to the application.

Cllr Towers returned to the room.

24/02234/TCA – Millennium Green, Aston Street, Wem. To fell 3no. Scotts Pine (G1) and 3no. Corsican Pine (G2) (and replace with alternative species) within Wem Conservation Area

Cllr Drummond left the room and took no part in discussions.

RESOLVED:- not to object to the application but to request that the replacement trees should be standard sized trees.

Cllr Drummond returned to the room.

720/24 Finance and Accounts for Payment.

a) Budget report – to consider.

The budget report up to 27th June 2024 was presented and it was

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

It was reported that Cllr Parry would be undertaking the checks for April and May in early July.

c) Accounts for payment - to approve accounts for payment.

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments.

Direct Debits and payments made prior to meeting.

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	BACS no
Shropshire Council	Salaries January HMRC Pensions	7065.51 2506.18 2105.21		7065.51 2506.18 2105.21	BACSPAYROLL BACSHMRC BACSLGPS
WaterPlus	Rec Toilet Water 14.3.24-14.6.24	81.70	5.88	87.58	DD 12.24
EE	Mobile Phones	32.06	6.41	38.47	DD 13.24
Unity Trust Bank	Cash/Cheque charges	5.10	0.00	5.10	DD 14.24
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.3.24 - 31.3.24	185.55	9.28	194.83	DD 15.24
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.5.24 – 8.6.24	46.45	0.00	46.45	DD16.25
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card repayment	159.12	0.00	159.12	DD 17.24
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	108.47	21.69	130.16	DD 18.24
Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges	17.68	0.00	17.68	DD 19.24
J Ralphs	Reimbursement post fix	45.48	9.10	54.58	65.24
Credit card payments for information only					
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	3.00	0.00	3.00	CC 7.24

Payments for approval

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Healthmatic	Car Park Toilets 17.5.24 – 16.6.24	783.25	156.65	939.90	56.24
Healthmatic	Rec Toilets 1.5.24 – 31.5.24	406.29	81.26	487.55	57.24
Shropshire Council	Streetlighting Energy	2325.59	465.12	2790.71	58.24
PG Skips	Bin Emptying	114.59	22.93	137.52	59.24
ISM IT	IT Support	99.99	20.00	119.99	60.24
Ricoh	Printing/copying	171.96	34.39	206.35	61.24
Healthmatic	Car Park Toilet coin machine repairs	210.00	42.00	252.00	62.24
Highline Electrical	Eye bolts and bunting installation	1761.19	352.24	2113.43	63.24
Mark Fitton	Bus Stop Cleaning	85.00	0.00	85.00	64.24
Viking	Stationery	61.16	12.23	73.39	66.24
Highline Electrical	Streetlight Repairs April	45.00	9.00	54.00	67.24
Taylor's	Water Remedial Works	450.00	90.00	540.00	68.24

A Roberts	Parking Reimbursement	53.67	10.64	64.40	69.24
Securitywise	Camera relocation works	1113.00	222.60	1335.60	70.24
King's	Key Cutting	3.50	0.00	3.50	300129

d) Earmarking of Rotary Donation made in December 2023 towards the 2024 Christmas Festival – to approve

RESOLVED:-to approve the earmarking of the £1000 donated by Wem Rotary in December 2023 for the 2024 Christmas Festival.

721/24 Events Liaison Group

a) to receive a report from the meeting held 26.6.24 and to consider recommendations arising from the meeting.

Cllr Broomhall presented this item and outlined the recommendations. Cllr Meakin spoke strongly in opposition to the change of date of the Christmas Festival to a Saturday afternoon instead of the first Friday of December as she felt people will not attend.

RESOLVED:- to receive the report from the meeting on 26.6.24 and approve the following recommendations from the meeting that .

- the Town Council does not pursue the idea of finding a permanent site for the beacon in the town.
- the Town Council continues to explore alternative temporary locations in the town to site the beacon.
- the Town Clerk investigates the cost of purchase of a gas fired beacon which is easy to install, transport and light.
- the Town Clerk seeks quotes from a structural engineer to undertake a structural inspection of the beacon.
- the 2024 Christmas Festival and lights switch on will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 30th November provisionally between 2pm and 5pm.
- the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman of the Events Liaison Group is given delegated authority to book an entertainment stage the same size as used in 2023.
- a meeting to be held in July with all interested parties to plan the event.

722/24 Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Liaison Group - to consider notes from the meeting held 19.6.24 and any recommendations arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED:- to receive the notes from the meeting on 19.6.24 and defer discussion on the recommendation under minute point 5 until the closed section of the meeting due to its confidential nature.

723/24 Recreation Ground Public Toilets - to consider report on usage and damage, as requested at May meeting.

The report was considered and suggestions were made to install sprinklers or play music white noise in order to deter rough sleepers and young people congregating in the toilet. Those present felt that it would not be a good spend of Town Council funds to pursue these options.

RESOLVED:- to note the report and take no further action.

724/24 Flag Flying Policy – to discuss draft policy.

A discussion took place on this item and it was felt that more discussion was required on the policy around the flying policy

RESOLVED:- to defer to the next meeting.

725/24 CCTV Recorder – to consider quote for replacement recorder.
It was explained that the current recorder was very old and not compatible with the CCTV programme so required upgrading.

RESOLVED:- to approve the quote submitted by Securitywise for £634.72.

726/24 Correspondence

a) Barnard Street TRO – to consider response from Shropshire Council.
Those present felt it would not be appropriate to spend the Town Council's neighbourhood fund on the installation of yellow lines on the corner of Barnard Street as this project should be funded by Shropshire Council as the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED:- to note and take no further action on this matter and remove it from the progress report.

b) Wem Civic Society – to consider the results of the survey on the future use of the White Horse conducted by Wem Civic Society.

RESOLVED:-

- to suspend standing orders for 10 minutes to permit a member from Wem Civic society to present the findings of the survey.

Oliver Richards from Wem Civic Society presented the results of the survey and explained that it had received over 200 responses. He explained that the suggestions made in the survey were that The White Horse could be renovated for affordable housing with a community space on the lower floor. A discussion took place on the results of the survey and a suggestion was made of the need to create a banking hub in Wem. Wem Civic society were thanked for the work on the survey.

FURTHER RESOLVED:- to note the report.

c) Lithium Battery Safety Campaign – to consider whether to support the campaign.

RESOLVED:- to note the correspondence.

727/24 Standing Order 26c – to consider motion received from Cllr Towers to suspend standing order 26c.

RESOLVED:- to not to permit the suspension of standing orders 26c.

728/24 Reports

- a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies.
No written reports received.
b) to receive a written report from Shropshire Councillors Broomhall and Towers.

RESOLVED:- to note the written report from Cllrs Towers and Broomhall.

729/24 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of July meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note the date of the July meeting as 25.7.24.

730/24 Exclusion of Public and Press

To resolve that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED:- to exclude the press and public.

a) Swimming Pool Tender – to award.

The recommendation made under minute point 5 at the Wem Swimming and lifestyle centre Liaison Group meeting held on 19.6.24 was considered

RESOLVED:- to

- award the tender for the Solar Energy and Roof Insulation Project at Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre to LJM Solutions Ltd.
- authorise the purchase the appropriate JCT Contract for this project and delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with I Jamieson from Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre to prepare the contract for signature.

b) Honorary Townsman – to vote on nominations for Honorary Townsman 2024

RESOLVED:- that Oliver Richardson and John Roberts be invited to accept appointment as Honorary Townsmen of Wem.

c) Office lease extension – for update

It was reported that no formal update had been received.

Meeting ended 20.40

Mayor.....