

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Wem Town Council held on Thursday 28th November 2024
at 7pm in the Town Council Meeting Room, Wem Library, High Street, Wem

Present: - Cllrs D Parry (Mayor) R Dodd, R Barker, P Broomhall, C Granger, D Hill, R Gascoigne, M Hoffman, P Johnson, E Towers, G Soul.

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

797/24 To note apologies for absence received
Apologies were received from Cllrs, Meakin, Glover and Drummond.

798/24 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	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council
Cllr Broomhall	Item 813/24a Director Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Council
Cllr Towers	Item 813/24a Director Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre	Dispensation to allow participation but not voting on all matters relating to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Council

b) To consider any applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011.
A dispensation application was received by Cllr Soul to allow him to speak and not vote on any matters relating to NS Wheelers

RESOLVED:- to award a dispensation for the Council term to Cllr Soul to speak but not vote on all matters relating to NS Wheelers.

799/24 Public Participation - a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for residents of Wem Town to speak.
None present.

800/24 Council Minutes - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 31.10.24.

RESOLVED:- to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 31st October 2024 and they were duly signed by The Mayor as a correct record.

801/24 Progress report - To consider the Clerks progress report on decisions made at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

802/24 Planning Applications

a) to note the recent planning decisions.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) To consider the following planning applications

i) 24/04107/FUL 25 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, new pitched roof to existing porch and installation of woodburner flues.

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

ii) 24/04159/FUL Overfields, Ellesmere Road, Wem, SY4 5TU

Proposal: Construction of agricultural building to house dairy youngstock

RESOLVED:- not to comment.

803/24 Finance and Accounts for Payment (copies to follow).

a) Budget report – to consider.

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

b) Internal Control checks – to note.

It was reported that the internal control checks were up to date

RESOLVED:- to note the report.

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	6693.53	0.00	6693.53	BACSPAYROLL
	HMRC	2375.43	0.00	2375.43	BACSHMRC
	Pensions	2057.33	0.00	2057.33	BACSLGPS
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Balance	3.00	0.00	3.00	DD58.24
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	11.25	0.00	11.25	DD 59.24
West Mercia Energy	Car park toilets energy 1.10.24 – 31.10.24	103.66	5.18	108.84	DD 60.24
Unity Trust Bank	Cash/Cheque charges	11.25	0.00	11.25	DD 61.24
WaterPlus	Car Park Toilet Water 8.10.24 – 8.11.24	46.45	0.00	46.45	DD 62.24

Unity Trust Bank	BACS charges	17.54	0.00	17.54	DD 63.24
Business2Business	Telephone/Broadband	108.47	21.69	130.16	DD 64.24
EE	Mobile Phones	28.67	5.73	34.40	DD 65.24
WaterPlus	Allotment Water 12.10.24-12.11.24	38.47	7.69	46.16	DD 66.24
Timber Direct	Timber (allotment number stakes)	213.05	42.61	255.66	181.24
Unity	Petty Cash	67.85		67.85	300134
Credit card payments for information only					
Lloyds Bank	Monthly Charge	3.00	0.00	3.00	CC17.24
Signs for You	Christmas Banner	52.80	0.00	52.80	CC18.24
	Internal Transfers				
From	To	Amount	Reason		
Nationwide	Unity Trust Bank	40000.00	Balance top-up		

RESOLVED:- to approve the following payments

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Wem Band	Remembrance Service	50.00	0.00	50.00	160.24
SLCC	Membership	300.00	0.00	300.00	161.24
Highline Electrical	Streetlight Repairs	197.93	39.59	237.52	162.24
NABMA	Markets Conference	175.00	35.00	210.00	163.24
LJM Solutions (see note below)	Solar Project Final Payment	2563.07	512.61	3075.68	164.24
ISM IT	IT Support	99.99	20.00	119.99	165.24
PG Skips	Drawwell Walk Skips	460.00	92.00	552.00	166.24
PG Skips	Cardboard Bin Empty	34.15	6.85	41.00	167.24
PG Skips	Rec Bin Empty	65.76	13.16	78.92	168.24
PG Skips	Cemetery Bin Empty	42.00	8.40	50.40	169.24
Hunter Lloyd	Electrical Checks	185.00	37.00	222.00	170.24
Viking	Stationery	80.92	16.18	97.10	171.24
Shropshire Council	HR Training	60.00	0.00	60.00	172.24
D Parry	Reimbursement – Townsmen Evening	56.17	11.23	67.40	173.24
DW Evans	Gravedigging Oct	640.00	0.00	640.00	174.24
SLCC	Staff Training	135.00	27.00	162.00	175.24
LITE	Globe Lighting	2896.00	579.20	3475.20	176.24
Highline Electrical	Support wire installation	2334.76	466.95	2801.71	177.24
Swimming & Lifestyle Centre	Grant (payment 3 of 4)	13750.00	0.00	13750.00	178.24
Mark Fitton	Bus Shelter Cleaning	75.00	0.00	75.00	179.24
Highline Electrical	Festive Lighting Contract Year 2	9222.33	1844.47	11066.80	180.24
Mad4Mascots	Mascot Hire	120.00	0.00	120.00	182.24
Shropshire Council	Streetlight Energy Q3	2325.59	465.12	2790.71	183.24

Supplier	Service	Net	Vat	Gross	Chq / BACS No
Taylor's	Swimming Pool hot water cylinder	6235.00	1247.00	7482.00	184.24

804/24 Events Liaison Group Christmas Festival meeting 14.11.24 - to receive notes from the meeting and to consider any recommendations arising from the meeting

RESOLVED:- to receive the notes from the meeting.

805/24 Staffing Committee Meeting 21.11.24 to receive draft minutes from this meeting and consider any recommendations contained within.

RESOLVED:- to receive the minutes from the meeting and approve the recommendation under minute point 5 and refer the recommendations made under minute point 9b to the January Finance Committee Meeting.

806/24 Public Toilet Cleaning Tender 2025-28 – to review.

RESOLVED:- to approve the tender document.

807/24 NS Wheelers - to consider request for Wem Town Council staff to manage NS Wheelers Mobile booking line on a trial basis
Cllr Soul provided some background to the request.

RESOLVED:- to defer this matter to the December meeting of the Town Council to give staff the opportunity to consider the impact of the proposals on workload.

808/24 Consultations – for consideration

a) Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.
The consultation was considered, and it was,

RESOLVED:- to respond to the questions as follows

- the Town Council would agree with the broad principles to the granting of powers to allow remote attendance at meetings.
- The Town Council consider that remote attendance should only occur in exceptional circumstances.
- The Town Council does not support the introduction of proxy voting.

b) Review of Shropshire Banners, Bunting and Festive Lighting Policy and Process.

RESOLVED:- to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council stating the view that the Town Council would strongly oppose devolution of the administration function for the permission process for the erection of Banners Buntings and Festive Lighting alongside and across highways.

809/24 Visit Shropshire – to decide whether to set up a meeting of a small group of councillors along with a representative from Visit Shropshire to find out more about the organisation and the benefits of membership

RESOLVED:- not to progress this matter.

810/24 Planting and maintenance contract for 2025 floral planters – to review.

RESOLVED:- to approve the contract.

811/24 Wem Place based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment draft action plan - for consideration.

RESOLVED:- to note the action plan and not submit any comments.

812/24 Correspondence.

a) Wem Senior Club – to consider letter requesting support.

RESOLVED:- to set up a meeting with representatives from Wem Senior Club, Community Resource and Cllrs Parry, Dodd, Soul to discuss options.

813/24 Reports

a) to receive written reports from the Council's representatives to other bodies. Written reports were previously circulated by Cllr Soul for Wem Town Hall Trustees meeting and Cllr Broomhall who attended the directors meeting of Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre.

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

RESOLVED:- to note the reports.

814/24 Dates of future meetings – to note the date and time of December meeting and agree the date of the January Budget meeting.

RESOLVED:- to note that the December meeting of the Town Council would be Thursday 19th December and that the January budget meeting will be held on January 23rd 2025 at 19.00.

Meeting ended 20.45

Mayor.....