

Wem Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2011, at the Council Chambers, Edinburgh House, Wem, starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: Richard Powell (Chair), Peter Broomhall, Bev Horsley, Mark Lockett, Laura McMahon, Bryan Morgan, Jon Murgatroyd, Angela Neame, Len Staines and Tim Wilton-Morgan

Locum Clerk: Carole Warner

Shropshire Councillor: Chris Mellings and Pauline Dee

Shropshire Regeneration Officer: Ruth Mansfield

West Mercia Community Police Officers: Lesley Mitchell and Antony Jones

Residents: 18

APM01/11

Introduction

The Chair Richard Powell welcomed everyone and explained the format of the meeting.

APM02/11

Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chair Richard Powell gave his report, topics included:

- Planning issues including lack of enforcement.
- Traffic issues
- Shropshire Council cuts and the impact local services.
- The number of Consultation documents.
- The Parish Council Precept request.
- Parish Plan.
- Introduction of the Parish Newsletter.
- Re-opening of Newtown Play Park.
- Joint meetings with Wem Town Council including Public meetings.
- Change in Parish Councillors.

APM03/11

Parish Plan Update

Cllr Jon Murgatroyd, as Chair of the Steering Group, gave a presentation reviewing the progress of the Parish Plan since the last Annual Parish Meeting and the timetable for this year. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. Answering a question from the audience, Cllr Murgatroyd confirmed that it was planned that the Parish Council would have sight of the draft Plan in order to include any financial assistance in the 2012/13 Budget. However, not all actions would require financial assistance.

APM04/11

Wem and Shawbury Local Joint Committee (LJC)

Shropshire Councillor Pauline Dee as Chair of the LJC, gave a brief overview of the aims and purpose of the Committee. She introduced Ruth Mansfield, Community Action Officer for the area, who had recently been appointed to the post. Cllr Dee outlined a typical meeting and encouraged community groups to apply for grants from the Committee.

APM05/11

Community Policing

Police Officers Mitchell and Jones explained that the Wem Rural Parish came under 2 two West Mercia Police areas with the boundary being Edstaston/Quina Brook area. Both Officers explained their roles, likening it to social workers, and gave positive examples of how Community Policing can change communities and just as important individuals' attitude to communities.

In answer to questions from the audience the Officers covered how to deal with unauthorised scrap dealers and the Rural Watch scheme. They also covered traffic issues in the Parish.

AMP06/11

"A Shropshire Councillor"

As an introduction, Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings explained that the size of the Shropshire Council Ward dictated 2 members, himself and Pauline Dee. He explained how the role covered 3 distinct areas: Representation of the electorate (fighting the people's corner!), Work (attending meeting and scrutiny functions) and Constituency (finding solutions to local issues). Cllr Mellings reiterated that the working relationship with the Parish Council was important as many issues could be tackled together.

APM07/1

Public Questions and Discussion

Topics covered:

- The introduction of car parking charges in Wem.
- The local bus service in Wem.
- The state of dis-repair of the buildings in Wem town centre.
- The heavy traffic going through Wem and possible diversion into Wem Rural lanes.

In closing, the Chair thanked all who had taken part with presentations and also those how had attended.

The Chair, Cllr Richard Powell, declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....